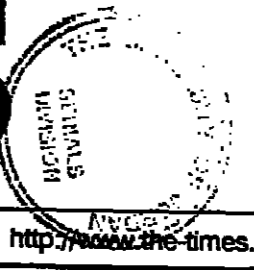


THE TIMES



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CJD risk threatens ban on British blood

By IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

Blood transfusions from British donors could be banned because of the remote risk that they could spread Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, the human form of "mad cow" disease.

The Health Department is expected to decide this week whether the 40 million-to-one chance of a donor having CJD is a greater risk than that of blood purchased from abroad being contaminated with more common infections, including HIV.

If it did ban British blood — which is free — the health service would have to spend millions of pounds buying supplies from overseas.

A series of reports considering the possibility that donors might be carriers of the infection were studied last month by the group of experts who advise Government on how to control and treat the illness and they forwarded the reports to the Health Department with a warning that it was impossible to be sure that blood transfusions were perfectly safe.

The Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee (Seac) said that a report from the consultants Den Norsk Veritas showed that a system for purifying blood called leukodepletion — which removes white cells — could not be guaranteed to clear the infection from blood, as had been hoped. The report, based on studies in America, found that the system was effective but not perfect.

The Seac advice is that the Government must decide whether the CJD risk is greater than that of unknown infections in foreign blood.

Of the 25 known British victims of CJD — all of whom died — three were blood donors, although it is not known whether they were carrying the disease when they gave blood. The report estimates some 80,000 donors could be carrying the human form of CJD. That could mean one in every 125 patients given

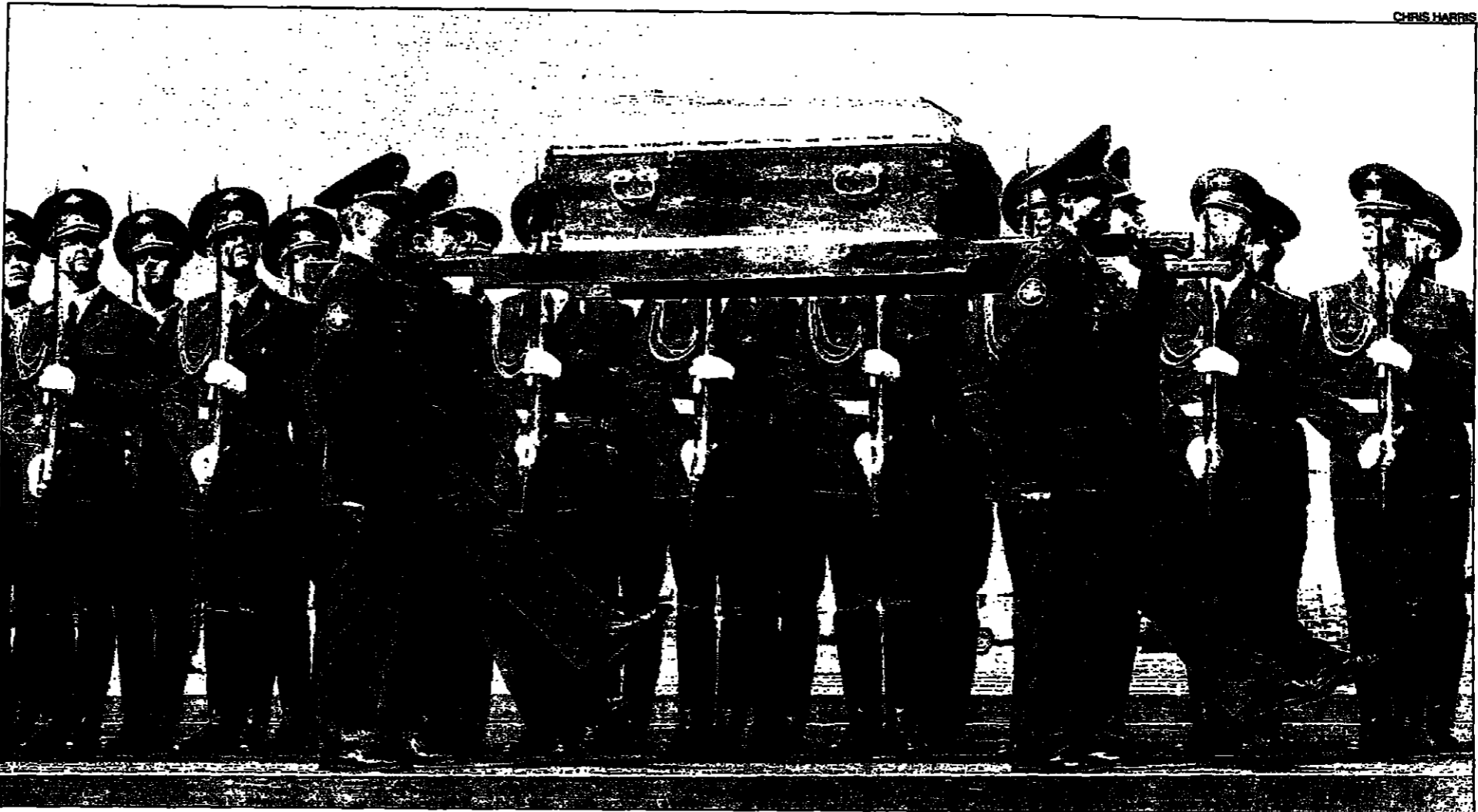
a transfusion could receive blood contaminated with new variant CJD. Some patients who receive several different blood products could be at greater risk.

Previous Seac recommendations have been accepted by the Government including one in February that blood from British donors should not be used in the manufacture of plasma products because of the possibility of infection. From September, all plasma will be bought from the United States, where new variant CJD is unknown.

Because plasma products can be kept for long periods and individual donations are mixed together, it cannot be guaranteed that some of the contaminated blood is not present in some of the products, so they are being phased out. However, blood used in transfusions can be kept for a maximum of a month, and since there is no known test for CJD until it is in an advanced state, it is impossible to know if a donor is suffering from it until after the blood has been used.

Stephen Dealler, a microbiologist who was one of the first to raise fears about new variant CJD, last night called on the Government to take urgent action. "This is the news that a lot of people feared," he said. "The official line has always been to play down the risk, but now we have firm evidence that a significant number of people could develop new variant CJD from blood. There may be thousands of people out there who have possibly become infected."

A Health Department spokesman confirmed that the SEAC advice was being considered and that a decision would be taken shortly. "If there is a risk, it is minute and people who need blood would be in infinitely greater danger of dying without a transfusion than from catching CJD from it," he said.



Tsar Nicholas II's coffin arriving in St Petersburg for today's funeral, which will be broadcast live across Russia. President Yeltsin has decided to attend after all. Page 16

Doctor suspended over breast cancer operations

By GILLIAN HARRIS, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

A SURGEON was suspended yesterday amid allegations that he operated on women with suspected breast cancer without first completing routine diagnostic checks.

Douglas Irving, 51, the medical director at Stracathro Hospital in Brechin, northeast Scotland, was asked to stand down after a preliminary audit of his breast cancer caseload over the past five years revealed that about 150 patients could be affected by his failure to follow guidelines on treatment of the disease.

Concerns about Mr Irving's clinical practice were raised by his colleagues. A full investigation will be carried out into claims that he contravened rules agreed by surgeons in Tayside, which state that doctors treating breast disease must carry out a mammogram and take a biopsy before surgery.

Tayside Health Board announced yesterday that all Mr Irving's patients' records would be reviewed and those affected would be offered a clinical examination. An emergency telephone helpline — 0800 224488 — has been set up. Mr Irving's private patients at Fernbrae Hospital in Dundee and Albyn Hospital

in Aberdeen will also be informed of his suspension.

Ron McLeod, the acting chief executive of Angus NHS Trust, said: "Our overriding concern is for the welfare of Mr Irving's patients. From the results of our initial investigations, it appears that a number of patients may have been adversely affected by the failure to follow strict surgical procedures."

Mr Irving, who earns £90,000 a year and has worked for Angus NHS Trust for 15 years, will remain on full pay throughout the inquiry, which is expected to last a week. His post will be filled temporarily by Gordon Paterson, the chief administrative medical director of Grampian Health Board.

Last night, Mr Paterson said: "Concerns were expressed about some aspects of Mr Irving's practice and quite properly, his colleagues made preliminary inquiries. These suggest that there should be an external review of his practices and that has been put in action."

Mr Paterson said that there were "agreed guidelines" in Tayside for the investigation and management of suspected breast cancer. He said the guidelines were "about the stages that have to be gone through to investigate a woman who presents herself with an abnormality of the breast which may or may not be breast cancer."

Sam Galbraith, the Scottish Health Minister, said he was "determined to ensure that all the circumstances surrounding this incident are fully investigated and that lessons are learned."

Ruth Leslie Melville, chairwoman of Tayside Health Council, expressed surprise that Mr Irving's workload had not been audited over the past five years.



Irving suspended on full pay during inquiry

Damages ruling set to inflate premiums

By FRANCES GIBB AND ANNE ASHWORTH

MOTORISTS, employers and doctors face higher insurance premiums after a landmark House of Lords ruling yesterday which will boost damages awards to accident victims by up to 40 per cent.

The law lords ruled that in awarding damages, judges should not assume accident victims can speculate on the stock market in order to secure a good rate of return on their awards. Victims should be entitled to invest awards in low-risk, index-linked government securities which earn a lower rate of return — 3 per cent, as against the expected 4.5 per cent from equities and gilts.

The impact of the ruling — widely welcomed by personal injury lawyers — means that damages awards in cases of accidents affecting earnings will rise substantially.

The Association for British Insurers said last night that the ruling would also bring "substantial increases" in premiums. The largest rises would be in employers' liability insurance, in motor policies — where 15 per cent of money paid out goes in injury claims — and in professional negligence cover for doctors and other professionals.

The association said that one immediate result was likely to be an increase in the estimated £500 million in serious personal injury damage claims facing insurers which are awaiting a decision.

Lord Lloyd of Berwick, Lord Steyn, Lord Hope of Craighead, Lord Hyde and Lord Hutton, allowed appeals by three victims who all had their damages awards slashed by the Court of Appeal in 1996.

Thelma Wells, a car crash victim, had her award of £1,619,000 cut by £532,000; James Thomas, now eight, who suffered cerebral palsy at birth because of a hospital error, had his award of £1,285,000 cut by £300,000; and Kelvin Page, a steelworker whose award of £906,000 after he was impaled by a metal bar, was cut by £280,000.

The High Court judges who made the original awards accepted evidence that the only safe investments were low-risk, index-linked government securities, and ruled accordingly.

Varsity swim crawls to win by a dead heat

By JOHN GOODBODY, SPORTS NEWS CORRESPONDENT

TO beat a traditional rival by a clear 21 seconds, only to have the race declared a tie, seems a case of taking the Corinthian spirit too far.

Oxford and Cambridge swimmers yesterday battled for more than nine hours through tidal swells, sea-sickness and cold seas in the first Varsity cross-Channel relay race for the sake of a draw. The tie was declared because the Presidents had agreed that there would be no outright winner if there were less than two minutes between the teams.

Martin Davies, the Oxford President, said this was because of the difficulty of exact timing on entering and leaving the water.

Cambridge landed on the east side of Gris-Nez in 9 hrs, 24 mins and 39 secs, with Oxford touching land after 9hrs 25 mins.

Police may vet private security guards to patrol the streets

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

PRIVATE security guards could soon be working with the police patrolling high streets, suburbs and housing estates.

Some 50,000 guards would be trained, licenced and regulated by the police, who might also direct their operations. The guards would wear uniform and badges to make clear to the public that they had been approved by the local force.

The idea was unveiled at a national police conference yesterday and was greeted with enthusiasm by chief constables and Jack Straw, who said that there was a "real possibility" of it going ahead. The Home Secretary added that it would be up to the police, rather than ministers, to decide whether to proceed. If they did, the guards would

supplement rather than replace police patrols.

If the scheme did go ahead — and some officers expect it to be approved this autumn — it would not only bolster police numbers on the streets, but also solve the Government's problem of how to regulate the burgeoning private security industry. Only four years ago, the police attacked the appalling standards and criminal background of some guards. They could now be asked to guarantee the quality of the approved guards.

Security companies and local authorities would pay for the licensing, and senior officers promised yesterday that police numbers would not be cut. However, some officers fear that the scheme would sound the death knell of the traditional bobby on the beat — already a disappearing sight on the streets.

But Mr Straw said: "If you

talk to the public, they understand you cannot have a police officer walking up and down their street all day. You never had that. That was a myth about what happened in some golden age."

"Complementary policing" by security firms already existed and the plans were a recognition of reality. Anyone who went into town centres during the day would be aware of private guards and anyone going to a club or bar in the evening would see bouncers.

The question was what role the private industry should have and how this would operate with the police. The Home Secretary said that one local authority in the Prime Minister's Sedgefield constituency already ran a private patrol with the police, while Wandsworth Council ran a police force in Battersea Park, south London.

Yesterday senior officers forecast the changes could become national police policy by the autumn. A paper on the plan by Ian Blair, the Surrey Chief Constable, will go before a committee of chief constables within the Association of Chief Police Officers next week.

Leaders of junior ranks will oppose the move and another chief constable has prepared a counter argument. But if, as expected, Mr Blair wins the day, his proposals would go before a meeting of all 43 chief constables in England and Wales in the autumn.

Outlining his plans to Acpo's summer conference in Birmingham yesterday, Mr Blair said that his ideas were intended to launch a debate and suggest a middle course between the current indefensible claim of police to a monopoly of patrolling and the

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Knight at the opera dances delightedly to Kaufman's tune

SOME people believe that when a select committee grills a witness, there are two sides: committee and witness. This is naive. Sometimes they are both on the same side, gangling up on someone else.

Yesterday the Select Committee on Culture, Media and Sport ganged up with Sir Richard Eyre, author of a report on the Royal Opera House, to put the boot into the opera house management and the Secretary of State, Chris Smith.

Ballet must be more popular on the Isle of Sheppey than

we had imagined, for, as soon as Derek Wyatt (Lab. Sittingbourne & Sheppey) was given the chance, he launched into a plea for more and better seats for ballet-goers at Covent Garden.

A big, heavy, shuffling, balding man with a snub nose and specs, Wyatt has played rugby for England, but was difficult to picture in tights. Yet it was soon clear that not only did he care passionately about dance, he was involved himself as an extra in Gerald Kaufman's cunningly choreographed ballet *Death Rites of*

Sir Colin Southgate and his Board — a ballet in which the principal ballerina was Sir Richard Eyre.

Distinguished-looking Sir Richard — dark eyebrows, noble profile, grey hair swept back — danced in and was at once invited by Mr Kaufman to entrust these boards with public money? Why indeed, agreed the obliging Sir Richard. Mr Kaufman had "rightly indicted" the previous board. And the new board, asked Mr Kaufman. Sir Richard was *sur la pointe*: the new



lot didn't look much better. In tripped Mr Wyatt. If management at the opera house did not get improve fast, it was a sign they still hadn't got the message? A *jeté* from Sir Richard: "I say so in my report."

But now, at a nod from Mr Kaufman, a clever *pas de chat*: what if the grant were not increased? There would

be ways of meeting this contingency, would there not? Sir Richard offered an arabesque. Indeed there would: much shorter seasons — the house could be hired out for other functions. And we didn't want that, did we?

We could see where Mr Kaufman's dance was going: new management, new money, or else. The types who

have been in charge at the opera house had shown "arrogance and presumption" ("vocabulary more often associated with myself") had they not? A piquette from Sir Richard: "I'd certainly infer that conclusion myself."

Less the dance become dull, he arranged for a little bribe: it was perhaps a tad early to condemn Sir Colin Southgate, the new chairman.

But for Mr Kaufman it is never too early to condemn. Was there really "any evidence" the board had "taken a grip", he asked? Sir Richard

offered a *plié* sadly there was still no business plan...

Ronnie Fearn (Lab, Southport) *glissé* in wearing a white suit. Famous for his roles as a pantomime dame in Southport, it is not impossible to imagine Ronnie in a tutu. National Lottery funding had been described by Sir Richard (he reminded us) as funding "a stainless steel kitchen in a famine" — a "marvellous phrase", simpered Mr Fearn. Invited to agree with himself, Sir Richard graciously complied. Invited by Michael Fabricant (C, Lichfield) to

agree that Chris Smith's plan to house the English National Opera under the same roof was absurd, Sir Richard executed a deft *entrechat*: "I took a charitable view; that it was meant to denigrate discussion," he smiled.

Another *fouetté* from Mr Kaufman: a swipe at the "narrow social circle" puffing itself up around the royal opera. Well, mused Sir Richard, one could open opera up a bit — but they'd have to take the risk of someone sitting next to someone in trainers.

Health crusade fails to impress professionals

By IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Government yesterday announced the biggest health crusade the country has seen since the birth of the National Health Service, but was promptly told by doctors, nurses and health service managers it would fail without extra pay.

Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, told the Commons that the crusade would improve the quality and care available and promised that there would be no new NHS patient charges in the lifetime of this Parliament.

The £21 billion extra the NHS will receive over the next three years would be enough to recruit 15,000 nurses and 7,600 doctors to treat an extra three million patients, he said. It would also be enough to provide training places for 6,000 more nurses, make a large increase in numbers of medical students, improve or rebuild 1,000 GPs' surgeries and modernise outdated hospitals. Thirty new hospitals were planned. There would be a ring-fenced £5 billion for a modernisation programme and £3 billion more, in a different budget, for social services to look after people in the community.

"This is an historic settlement," Mr Dobson said. "It will enable the hard-working and dedicated staff of the NHS and social services to provide the treatment and care that people need and to provide it to a higher standard than ever in every part of the country."

His figures were immediately challenged by Ann Widdecombe, the Shadow Health Secretary, who said the Government was only planning to spend £21 billion more in real terms over Conservative spending trends.

"While welcome as it stands, it is a very long way from the hype and hyperbole of the Chancellor's excitable announcement, which now has

the dubious aroma of a dodgy accountancy scam," she said. Simon Hughes, for the Liberal Democrats, said the NHS needed an extra three per cent each year just to stand still, adding: "An increase of extra spending of 3.7 per cent is clearly helpful but it is no lottery jackpot."

The British Medical Association said Mr Dobson's statement raised more questions than it provided answers to NHS staffing problems. "Where are the extra doctors supposed to come from?" said a spokesman. "They can't be trained overnight and without better pay or family-friendly employment conditions — which are expensive — there is no way of luring people who have left the NHS back."

Christine Hancock, general secretary of the Royal College of Nursing, said it was good news that an extra 15,000 nurses were to be recruited, "but my first question is where are these nurses going to come from if we don't tackle pay?"

Stephen Thornton, chief executive of the NHS Confederation, an umbrella body for health authorities and trusts, said the staff could only be recruited from among those

who had dropped out of the service or by scouring Europe. "There is even the spectre of recruiting even further afield from countries like South Africa, where they have a greater need for doctors than we do," he said.

Although Mr Dobson is offering more training places for nurses, last year there was a shortfall of five per cent in the number of candidates for the available places. "We can't fill the places we have at present, let alone find another 6,000 who want to join the profession at present pay rates," a college spokesman said.

He said the Government was also seeking a three per cent year-on-year efficiency gain, which was unlikely to be possible. "Many trusts have made all the efficiency hits they can and they are already threadbare. Some have gone too far, so that quality is being affected. If we are to hit this target we may have to start closing small hospitals in the interests of efficiency, and I am not at all sure that would be a popular road for the Government to go down."

Karen Caines, director of the Institute of Health Service Managers, said the pay issue could wreck the whole deal. "The NHS already faces a critical shortage of doctors and nurses at a time when the Government is looking for massive productivity improvements," she said. "Private sector pay is rising at an average of 2.8 per cent compared with 2.2 per cent for nurses."

She said it was doubtful whether the money available would be able to do all the things promised. "The much-vaunted £5 billion modernisation fund will be spread as thin as jam at Scrooge's tea party," she said.

Leading article, page 23



There's no scaffolding work, but we do have vacancies for doctors



Jack Straw said that the idea of a policeman walking up and down a street all day was a golden myth

Continued from page 1

"creeping unregulated privatisation of security in public places which is now occurring". Over the past 50 years, police have steadily lost the monopoly of controlling sports events and guarding prisoners and have been replaced in some high streets by private patrols. In ten years' time even more tasks will be lost to local authorities and chief constables have already lost the sole right to decide local policing strategy.

Private street patrols

A survey of the 43 forces last year showed that seven had private patrols operating in residential areas and another 11 had patrols, organised by local councils.

Referring to his own force, Mr Blair suggested that security guards could in future wear "kite marks" with the words "Surrey Police Compliant". The Welfare to Work programme could be used to

setting up the new system would prove costly. "Private security is cheap. Making it more professional would increase costs." Mr O'Byrne added that the public wanted police officers to deal with their problems.

The Police Federation, representing junior officers, also attacked the plans. It said that chief constables were unable to guarantee effective patrolling strengths in their budgets and were looking for ways round the problem.

Irvine defers legal aid plans

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Lord Chancellor has deferred plans to withdraw legal aid from accident cases until October next year at the earliest. "But Lord Irvine of Lairg is still to go ahead with an expansion of "no win, no fee" work at the earliest opportunity.

The plans, suggested last October, had initially been expected to take effect this April, then this summer. But they have run into a barrage of criticism, from both the legal profession and the consumer bodies.

Lord Irvine pledged last autumn to shake up the £1.6 billion legal aid scheme by replacing most civil legal aid with "no win, no fee" work. Originally his plans were to remove civil legal aid for all

money disputes, not just accident claims.

But over recent months, the Law Society and Bar have worked to persuade the Government of the difficulties of withdrawing legal aid before the insurance market had fully developed to support "no win, no fee" work.

Lord Irvine agreed to limit the withdrawal of legal aid to accident claims. But it was believed he would ensure this went ahead this autumn at the latest. Yesterday he announced he was working towards a target date of autumn 1999. Lord Irvine has clearly been persuaded by arguments that replacing legal aid by conditional fees needs time.

But he announced he would go ahead with a wholesale

expansion of "no win, no fee" work.

Lord Irvine said: "To achieve maximum benefit from the money available, the Government is determined to ensure that legal aid is not spent in purchasing legal services where a suitable alternative exists. It believes that conditional fees provide a suitable alternative, particularly in a range of money claims."

But there needed to be a "measured approach" to developing conditional fees in place of legal aid, particularly in personal injury cases.

A spokesman for his department insisted that no date had previously been given for the withdrawal of legal aid for personal injury claims. The Lord Chancellor also

announced that he was minded to seek legislation as soon as possible enabling people who bring successful claims to recoup from insurers both the insurance premium they take out and the extra fee they have to pay their solicitors.

Heather Hallett, QC, Bar chairman, and Vicky Chapman, head of policy at the Legal Action Group, welcomed the announcement.

Reforms to cut the length and cost of fraud trials, including specialist fraud judges, were called for by the Director of the Serious Fraud Office yesterday. In her annual report, Rosalind Wright also called for the law to be modernised to cope with advances in electronic banking and computers.

Peers ask Queen to pardon Guardsmen

By JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL REPORTER

THE Queen will next week be urged by peers to invoke a rarely used power of royal pardon to free two Scots Guardsmen serving life sentences for the murder of a Catholic teenager in Belfast.

The House of Lords will be asked to present "an Humble Address" to the Queen asking her to exercise the Royal Prerogative of Mercy to release James Fisher and Mark Wright. The soldiers were jailed for life in 1995 after shooting Peter McBride, an unarmed 18-year-old who they say they suspected of carrying a bomb, as he ran from a foot patrol in 1992.

The idea of using the prerogative has come from Lord Campbell of Alloway, a senior Tory lawyer, who has won the support of many peers, including two former Chiefs of Defence Staff, Lord Bramall and Lord Inge. Lord Campbell will present the motion on Monday.

The Royal Prerogative dates from

the Middle Ages, when monarchs could issue a pardon on their own initiative. Since the mid-19th century, however, the sovereign can only exercise the prerogative on the advice of senior ministers, in this case Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary.

The prerogative was used occasionally earlier this century to commute death sentences to life imprisonment, but has fallen into disuse since the abolition of capital punishment in 1965.

In May, the High Court in Belfast rejected a request that the cases should be referred immediately to the Life Sentence Review Board, which is due to consider them in October. Although Ms Mowlam last week unexpectedly announced a fresh review of the cases, peers believe that the Royal Prerogative is the best mechanism which the Government can use to free the soldiers quickly.

Laureate in line for £10,000 poetry prize

By DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE Poet Laureate has been shortlisted again for the £10,000 Forward Prize for poetry. On a list of five — whittled down from 119 collections — Sir Ted Hughes will be competing against Anne Carson, Gwyneth Lewis, Derek Mahon and Glyn Maxwell for the Best Collection in Britain's leading poetry awards.

He was picked for *Birthday Letters* — last year, it was for *Tales from Ovid*, which also won the Whitbread and W H Smith awards.

The Forward Prizes, worth a total of £16,000, were established seven years ago by William Sieghart, chairman of Forward Publishing and founder of National Poetry Day, "to bring the public's attention to contemporary poetry".

Apart from the Best Collection category, there is a £5,000 for the Best First Collection and £1,000 for the Best Single Poem. The judges include the poet Simon Armitage

and novelist Josephine Hart. Ms Carson, who was born in Canada and is a classics professor at McGill University in Montreal, was shortlisted for *Glass and God*, her first full-length collection in Britain. Michael Ondaatje has described her as "the most exciting poet writing in English today".

Ms Lewis, a television producer, writes in both Welsh, her first language, and English: she was picked for *Zero Gravity*, which Joseph Brodsky has called "felicitous, urbane, heart-breaking". Mr Mahon, born in Belfast, was picked for *The Yellow Book*; and Mr Maxwell, who comes from Hertfordshire and teaches poetry at Amherst College in Massachusetts, impressed the judges with *The Breakeage*.

The winners will be announced on October 7.

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Lawrence officer 'did not know suspects'

By LIN JENKINS

A SENIOR police officer who liaised with the family of Stephen Lawrence told the inquiry into the murder of the black teenager that he did not know who the prime suspects were until they were named by a national newspaper.

Commander Raymond Adams said yesterday that he learnt of their identities only after the *Daily Mail* named them under the headline "Murderers".

He said his only role in the investigation was to help to compose a letter to Imran Khan, the family's solicitor. But, he said, he had no information of how the inquiry was proceeding.

Mr Khan had asked whether arrests were imminent. Mr Adams said he would not have thought that such information would be passed to a victim's family. He had not sought to find out about the progress of the inquiry.

"It was my job to set up how it

could be discussed, if it was going to be discussed at all," he said.

As director of criminal intelligence at the Metropolitan Police SO11 during 1987 and 1988 he had worked with officers involved in the Lawrence inquiry. But he said that despite learning that Clifford Norris, the father of one suspect, was wanted at the time, he had "zero knowledge" of him.

Within days of writing the letter to Mr Khan, where he and another officer were identified as those who could help with his inquiries, Mr Adams went on permanent sick leave.

He said that despite a severe back problem he had wanted to continue working, but was told by Deputy Assistant Commissioner David Osland that he would have to go permanently sick. He is now director of risk management at Kroll Associates.

The inquiry continues.

Diana prayers

Diana, Princess of Wales, will be remembered in prayer at Westminster Abbey on August 31, the anniversary of her death. Prayers will also be said for the Princess and her family on the anniversary of her funeral, which was held at the Abbey on September 6 and televised to a worldwide audience. A Westminster Abbey spokesman said: "It is the Church's custom to remember the departed in prayer."

Rare dustjacket

A first edition of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, complete with its dustjacket, sold for £80,700 at Sotheby's in central London. Sotheby's said the book alone was worth about £3,000 and the remaining amount was paid for the rare dustjacket. The amount is thought to be a world record for a book in a dustjacket. It was sold to an American dealer.

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Teacher 'bullied by staff' wins £100,000

A FORMER deputy head teacher won more than £100,000 damages yesterday in the first case of its kind after claiming he was bullied by colleagues.

Anthony Ratcliffe, 48, blamed his experiences for two mental breakdowns which forced him to give up teaching. Solicitors reached an out-of-court settlement with his former employers after claims that he was isolated, ignored and subjected to a series of practical jokes.

Mr Ratcliffe, who taught at Sageston County Primary in Carew, near Pembroke, Wales, claimed that he made a target of by the headmistress, Jean Morris, from his first day. He alleged that he was treated as an "outsider" by the Welsh headmistress and staff because he was English.

Among the incidents of which he complained was a Christmas party at which he said he was asked to give an elderly spinster and former teacher a wrapped present - which turned out to be a six-inch chocolate penis.

Mr Ratcliffe, who barely knew the woman involved, said he was horrified to discover what the gift was and deeply embarrassed that she might think that it had been his idea. At the same party, a bottle of wine he brought in was relabelled "Randy Brandy", adding to his discomfort, he claimed.

Mr Ratcliffe, whose case was taken up by the Associ-

Victoria Fletcher on English deputy head who claims that his Welsh colleagues drove him to breakdown

ation of Teachers and Lecturers, said that the torment went on for more than a year. "The bullying led to my breakdown and it got to the point where I couldn't teach any more," he said yesterday. "I was embarrassed to be bullied by a woman. One morning I came downstairs and could not go through my front door to work. For the first time I began to cry and by the end of the week I had cracked."

"I joined the school as a confident, competent person, looking forward to promotion through the education system. I took great pleasure in seeing children develop and it is a great loss that will never be able to be replaced."

Martin Pilkington, head of the legal team of the Association of Teachers and Lecturers, said: "This is the first case where a teacher has settled a claim based on allegations of bullying for a six-figure sum. It demonstrates that employers have to take the issue of bullying and harassment at work very seriously indeed."

The council had not accepted that there was any negligence on its part or that the head's actions amounted to a breach of contract, and had

claimed that Mr Ratcliffe's breakdown was the result of inherent personality problems. But it agreed the out-of-court settlement after the Association of Teachers and Lecturers started proceedings in the High Court. Education officials said yesterday that, despite the settlement, Mr Ratcliffe's allegations were still denied. Pembroke County Council, which took over from Dyfed County Council, Mr Ratcliffe's former employer, said: "Throughout the council has not accepted the allegations made by Mr Ratcliffe and the proceedings have been strenuously resisted."

"The insurers and Mr Ratcliffe have, however, now agreed to settle this case without the necessity of a court hearing. Such an agreement does not alter the position in that the council continues to reject the allegations made by Mr Ratcliffe."

Norman Parry, a county councillor who is vice-chairman of governors at Sageston primary, said he had his "complete confidence" in his head teacher management and staff. "These allegations refer to matters that occurred some years ago and I know

that Sageston school is a happy, successful and caring school," he said.

"None of these allegations has ever been proved and they have been refuted all along. It is a great shame that this whole matter has had to be washed out in public like this. A settlement was made and that should be the end of the matter."

The association said that Mr Ratcliffe suffered a minor breakdown in October 1992 and Dyfed County Council sent him back to Sageston in July 1993, although it knew he wanted to be moved to another school. The teacher then suffered a second breakdown. It was claimed that a support plan worked out for him by the council was not properly implemented.

Mr Ratcliffe, formerly a technology teacher and now a self-employed kitchen fitter, will receive £101,028. "My life and that of my family has been shattered. But our love for each other has certainly helped us through it," he said.

His solicitor, Susan Wilde, said after the case that bullying in the workplace was "a huge problem" for teachers. "Head teachers have enormous scope to bully."

The settlement was criticised by Sheila Gregory, whose children attend the school. "The amount of compensation is just disgraceful. Just think how schoolbooks or computers could have been bought with it," she said.



Anthony Ratcliffe with his wife Jean. He is now a self-employed kitchen fitter.

Officer suspended for Vinnie Jones leak

By RICHARD FORD

A PROBATION service worker who organised the community service of Vinnie Jones, the football player, has been suspended after allegedly selling the details to a newspaper.

The community service officer, based at Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, was arrested with another person on Wednesday. A picture of Jones appeared in *The Mirror* on the same day. Both have been released on police bail pending further inquiries.

Jones, 33, player-assistant manager at Queens Park Rangers, was sentenced earlier this month to 100 hours unpaid work after being convicted of assaulting a neighbour near his home in Hemel Hempstead. He has been painting and refurbishing local community buildings. He was also ordered by St Albans magistrates to pay £400 compensation to Timothy Gear for punching and biting him.

Geoff Dobson, chief probation officer in Hertfordshire, said: "Following police inquiries into the unauthorised divulging of information about Mr Jones's placement, I can confirm that a community service officer has been suspended."

Man tried to poison colleagues over snub

By SIMON DE BRUXELLES

A MAN tried to poison the scientist he worked for because they never offered him a cup of tea.

William Smith, 57, a maintenance engineer employed in the biology laboratories at Exeter University, poured mercury into their kettle. Yesterday the case against him was dropped after Exeter Crown Court was told that he admitted the offence and had agreed to accept a police caution.

He told police he had believed the mercury would have a laxative effect. Medical experts say the scientists could have been poisoned.

Smith had become upset that staff made themselves tea but did not offer him a cup. He was accused of "maliciously and unlawfully attempting to cause scientist Martin Truscott-Evans and others to take a poison or other noxious thing, namely mercury, with the intent to injure, aggrieve or annoy them".

Jonathan Barnes, for the prosecution, said: "We have considered whether it is in the public interest to proceed and decided to offer no evidence. This defendant agreed to be cautioned. This can only be done if he accepts his guilt. He is a man of limited intellect and that was an important consideration. We are satisfied he had no intention to do any serious injury."

"The Crown accept he had no concept of the seriousness of what he did. Fortunately there was no injury, but lest anyone takes the view that what he did was safe, mercury is undoubtedly dangerous." Smith has since been dismissed.

Florida suspect arrested after copycat rape

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN MIAMI

POLICE in Florida yesterday arrested a 39-year-old man accused of raping a British woman at gunpoint in her motel on Monday, after shutting her male companion in the bathroom.

Kenneth Taylor was held at his Orlando home hours after a rape involving an Austrian couple, which police believe he may have been involved in.

An arrest warrant for Mr Taylor was issued after the British couple identified him from police photographs. "He was arrested without resistance at his home and is now in custody," Commander Pam Roush, head of investigations at Kissimmee Police Department, said.

Mr Taylor is charged with armed robbery, sexual battery and false imprisonment. If convicted he could be sentenced to more than 20 years in jail. He may face more charges because he is a suspect for at least six similar rapes in the Orlando area in the past five weeks. He is

being questioned about those crimes and the attack on the Austrian tourists on Wednesday night.

Police said that Mr Taylor had a criminal record stretching back more than a decade. He was jailed in 1986 for armed robbery, sexual assault and kidnapping. He was released in 1987.

He was arrested in Orlando last month on prowling charges and released a few days later.

The names of the British couple are being withheld to protect their privacy. They are in their 20s and from Middlesex. They were attacked soon after checking in to their hotel in Kissimmee, a few miles from Disney World, for a two-week holiday.

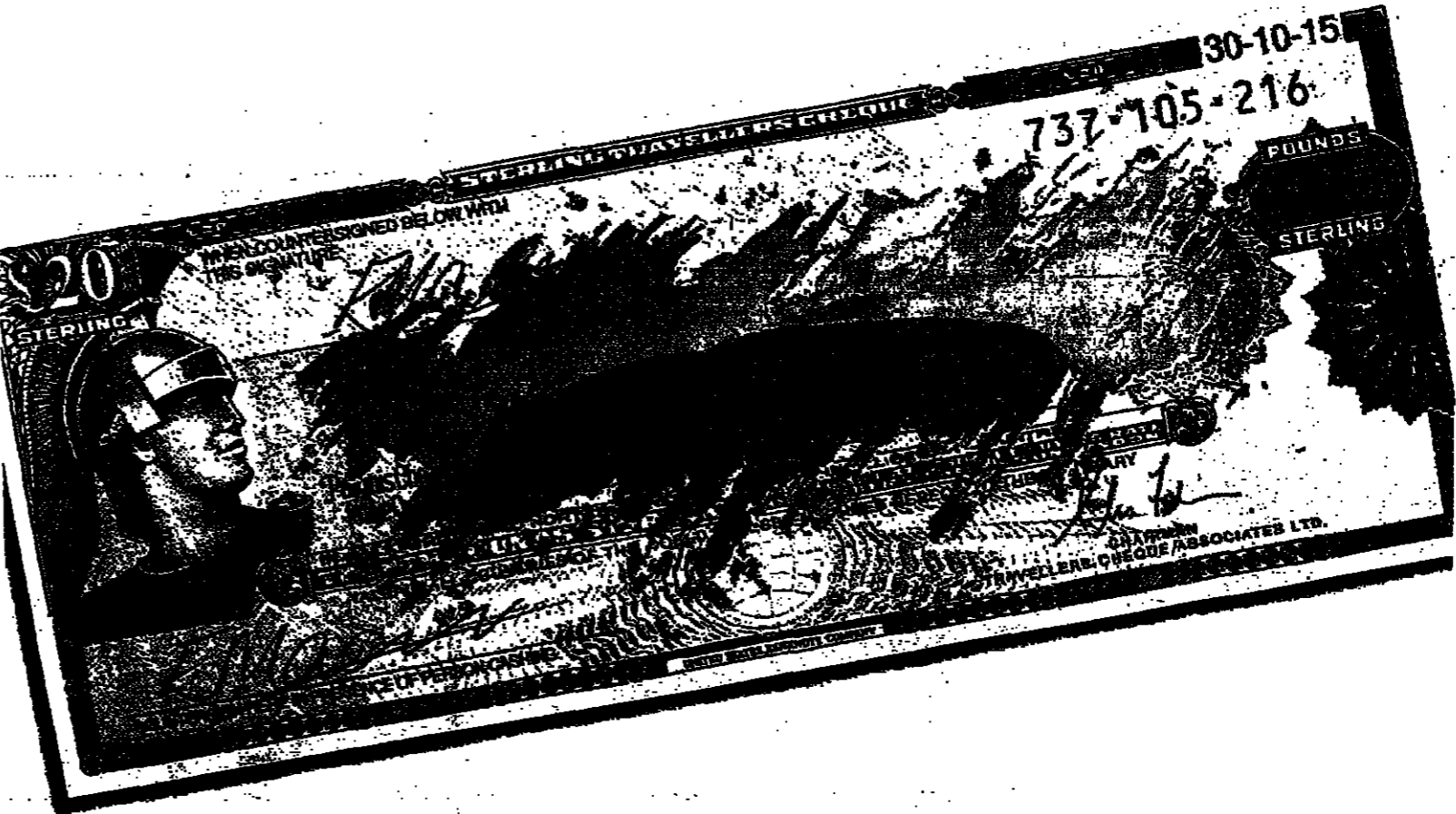
They requested an iron from the front desk and left their door ajar while they waited for it to be delivered. A man barged his way into the room, pointed a pistol at them and ordered them to hand over their money and remove their clothes.

When a hotel worker knocked on the door with the iron, the man calmly accepted it without causing suspicion, police said. After being forced to perform sex acts, the British man was allegedly into the bathroom while the woman was raped. The attacker fled with \$175.

The couple have stayed in the Orlando area to help the police investigation. They are in the care of a "victim advocate" provided by the local health service to help people to cope with traumatic events.



Photofit issued after sex attack on Britons



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Lonely wait of forgotten patient who got the needle

By SIMON DE BRUXELLES

IT LOOKED like there was a long night ahead for Diane Thomas as she lay alone and forgotten in a doctor's treatment room, with more than a dozen acupuncture needles stuck in her.

A doctor had positioned the needles, then told her to lie still and said he would be back in 40 minutes. Instead he was called to an emergency and forgot about her.

Mrs Thomas, 33, lay on the couch in her underwear, too terrified to move, as the surgery lights were turned off and staff locked up for the night at the Pontcae surgery in Marthyr Tydfil, South Wales. Her cries for help went unheeded behind the door of the sound-proofed room. Fortunately, the human pincushion was

found after 90 minutes by a cleaner doing her final rounds for the night. The housewife, who was having the treatment for sciatica, said yesterday: "She was very surprised to see me."

Unfortunately, Mrs Thomas then had to wait for the needles to be removed as her doctor could not be contacted, and the cleaners had to track down the practice's senior partner.

Her doctor, Kevin Thomas, has recently taken a course in the ancient Chinese therapy. He had inserted needles into his patient's neck, back, ankles and wrists. By the time the surgery closed at 6.30pm, he had not returned from an urgent home visit. Mrs Thomas said: "I shouted and shouted but no one was

there. I was getting very worried but I didn't want to move in case I pushed the needles in further. I was very relieved when the cleaner walked in."

Mrs Thomas was found at 7.15pm but then had to wait for the needles to be removed by Dr Hefin Jones, the practice's senior partner. Dr Jones, who has apologised for the incident, said: "I removed the needles even though Chinese medicine is a bit esoteric for me. By the time I'd done it, Dr Thomas had remembered and was on his way to the surgery. Mrs Thomas has taken it very well."

The surgery has brought in new procedures. Doctors will use a timer, and a small handbell will be placed within the patient's reach.

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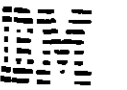
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Judge
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HUGH BOUM ENCE

Spectators watch Ian Woosnam in action at the seventh green yesterday in the opening round of the Open at Royal Birkdale. Tiger Woods shared the lead after a round of 65. Woods rampant, page 52

Judge checks in at 'insect-ridden' hotel

A JUDGE was making legal history today after travelling to Malta to stay at a hotel at the centre of a compensation claim. It is said to have dirty bedrooms, cockroaches and a constant smell of sewage.

After hearing conflicting evidence about the Palm Court Hotel, District Judge Anthony Cleary decided the only solution was to fly to Malta with lawyers from both sides. Announcing the decision at Birmingham County Court, he adjourned the case until Monday. It is believed to be the first case to involve a foreign site inspection.

Malta Sun Holidays is paying for the judge's trip. The company, based in London, is being sued by three families who stayed at the hotel in Qawra two years ago. The hotel, owned by Albert Borg, Malta Sun's managing director, was the subject of a BBC Television *Watchdog* programme last year.

The families — the Bannisters from Sutton Coldfield in

Malta trip to look into complaints by British tourists is making legal history, reports Helen Johnstone

the West Midlands, the Blys from Bury near Manchester, and the Osborns from Saffron Walden, Essex — are seeking £3,500 for the cost of their holidays, plus damages. They claim that their holidays were ruined by cockroaches, dirty bedrooms and poor service in the three-star, 350-bedroom hotel, which was more like a prison complex.

The holiday company denies the claims and has produced witnesses who said they enjoyed their stay.

However, the Birmingham firm of solicitors handling the case has been contacted by more than 150 other families wanting to take similar action against the company. Ros Ferrnough, the families' lawyer who is in Malta, on the

visit, said yesterday: "It is the first time an inspection abroad has taken place, but it has a lot to do with the number of cases pending and that it was important to establish the full facts."

"Malta Sun produced a group of elderly witnesses who said their stay was wonderful. They also backed it up with a promotional video apparently showing how pleasant it was. To the judge it must have seemed as if we were talking about different hotels, so it was decided that a site inspection would be appropriate."

One of the main complaints was about plumbing and sanitation. One person claimed there were big holes in the bath and another said there

was a constant smell of sewage.

"There was no aspect of the holiday that was enjoyable. It is described as a three-star hotel, but the Maltese Tourist board says improvements would have to be made for it to qualify for that rating."

Ms Ferrnough said Malta Sun had offered to pay for the two-day visit, but she declined, to ensure there was no conflict of interests. Mike Smith, operations manager for Malta Sun Holidays, said: "The judge and the lawyers will have free access throughout the two days. Hopefully this will help to shed light on the complaints and we are confident it will help us to win the case. We offered to pay the costs for all the parties, but after advice the representative for the plaintiff declined the offer."

A similar offer was extended to the judge and a spokesman for the Lord Chancellor's Department confirmed that the defendant, Malta Sun Holidays, was paying for his trip.

Girls and boys are equals at truant

By JOHN O'LEARY

GIRLS are as likely as boys to play truant and leave school without qualifications, according to a report that challenges the prevailing view of underachievement in education.

Girls are establishing a lead at the top level of academic performance, but gender differences are minimal at the lowest level, says the study *Wasted Youth*, by the Institute for Public Policy Research. Although boys are more likely to be expelled, girls and boys drop out at 16 in equal numbers.

The report calls for reduced boundaries between school and work, including mandatory traineeships for 16 to 18-year-olds and business units in schools. Underachievers are said to be neglected because schools are encouraged to focus too much on average pupils.

Education, page 44

'Sacked' secretary wins deal from sheikh's firm

By MARK HENDERSON

A SECRETARY who lost her job with the royal family of Dubai after having a baby has settled her compensation claim for an undisclosed sum.

Brenda Maddock, 42, from West Hampstead, North London, was personal assistant to John Leat, who looks after the United Kingdom interests of the racehorse owner Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al Maktoum. However, when she returned from maternity leave in 1994, she found her temporary replacement had been offered a permanent post.

Ms Maddock had claimed compensation for sexual discrimination, unfair dismissal and loss of earnings at an industrial tribunal, which was halted yesterday after she reached agreement with her former employers on Wednesday.

Ms Maddock had to give up a salary of £20,000 a year plus perks and cash bonuses worth more than £100,000 a year, and was left with no way of paying off a £117,000 interest-free loan she had taken out

from her employers to buy a home, she had told the tribunal.

Her duties had included entertaining guests at Royal Ascot, organising society parties and on one occasion buying personal gifts for Sheikh Mohammed to give to the Aga Khan. Her perks included access for herself and up to 16 guests to Royal Ascot.

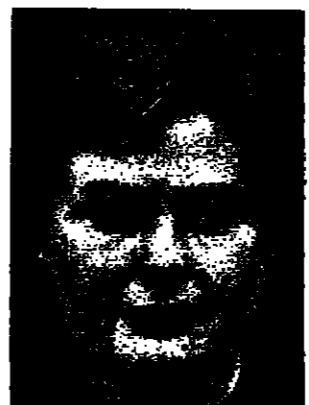
The sheikh also allowed her to furnish her own house with items from his Berkshire country mansion and even paid the £10,000 bill for her wedding.

She was among many employees to benefit from interest-free loans of up to £200,000 to help with home purchases, which were then paid off with £10,000 cash bonuses each year, the tribunal was told.

"It was standard procedure for me to receive a bonus at the end of the flat season at Ascot of up to £10,000 in cash," she said. "The payments were described as 'bungs'. There was no documentation and we did not have to sign for them."

"It was agreed that we could borrow against these future payments in order to assist our purchase of houses. If I borrowed £200,000 I anticipated that the loan would be repayed over 20 years at the rate of £10,000 pounds a year. It was always interest free."

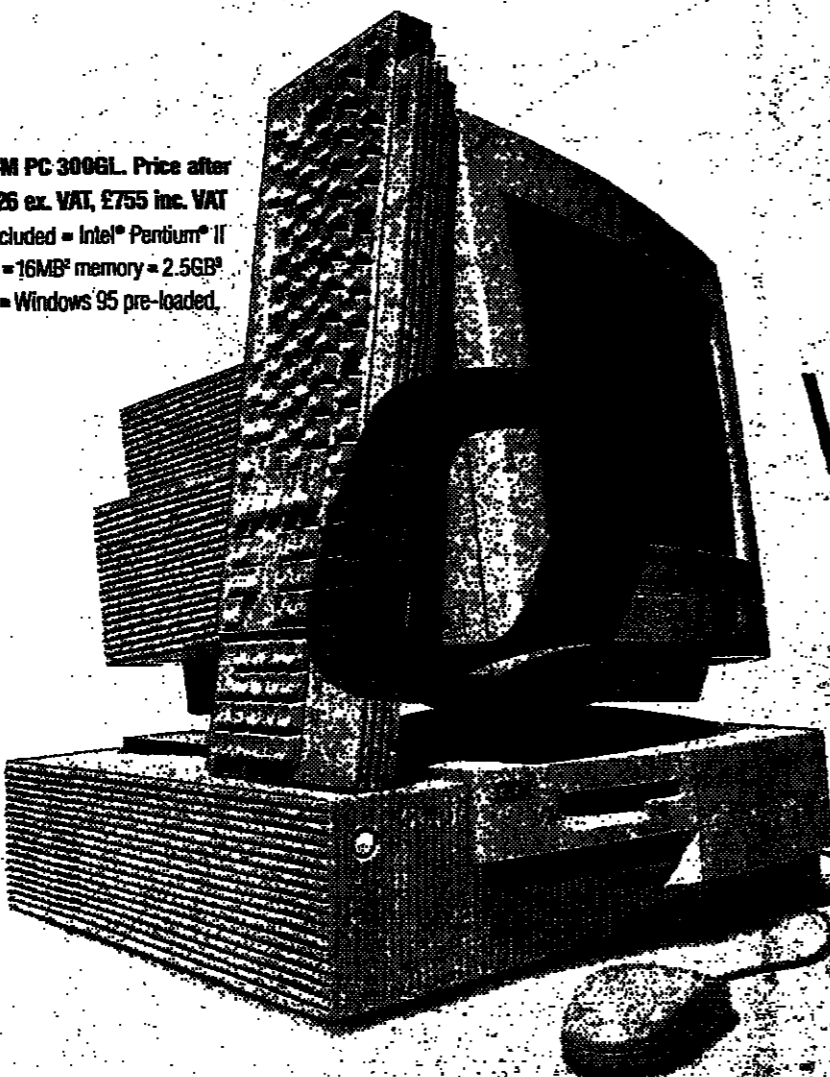
Her employers had said she refused to take her original job back and had demanded a promotion on her return.



Brenda Maddock paid for house with bonuses



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Boy wins deportation reprieve

Letters written by classmates have swung official decision, writes Dominic Kennedy



Luc Mangoum, who faces being sent back to Cameroon, and a poignant letter of friendship from a classmate

A BOY aged eight who has spent most of his life in Britain was temporarily spared deportation to Cameroon last night after a letter-writing campaign by his classmates.

Luc Mangoum, who last week appeared in his school's production of *Romeo and Juliet*, was to have been expelled at 8pm after his aunt and guardian, Marie Therese, lost her final appeal for asylum. With two hours to go, the London Detainees Support Group was told the deportation order had been delayed for 48 hours so that the boy's fate could be studied again.

Staff and pupils had pleaded in letters to the Home Office to let him stay in Britain with another aunt, Esther, and her young son and daughter, whom the boy regards as his best friends. Esther too is an asylum seeker.

The boy has lived with Marie Therese since he was

two. The whereabouts of his parents are unknown. Campaigners say they believe his father has had political difficulty in Cameroon. They also fear his guardian would be detained in Cameroon, leaving the boy without her care.

In April 1994, he joined the reception class at Middle Row Primary School in North Kensington, West London, where the roll call includes pupils

from 21 countries. A letter sent by staff and pupils to the Immigration Service reads: "This is a young child whose social and educational experience has been almost entirely in this country, and his interests and ambitions reflect this."

"He sees himself as being English — indeed, during the recent World Cup, while other children in school supported a variety of countries, he was

one of the few who consistently supported England! We feel it would be cruel and damaging for him to be arbitrarily uprooted from the only life he knows." A sheaf of letters was sent to the immigration officer at Heathrow Airport to be passed to the boy before he was to have left.

The boy's sudden removal from his home came as a surprise to teachers, who at

first did not realise why he failed to attend class. He has a good attendance record.

Detaining a child is rare. The Harmondsworth detention centre near Heathrow held about 12 children aged from six months to seven years between September 1996 and May this year, most of them with their mothers.

A letter from a boy who describes himself as Luc's best

friend says: "I really miss you. I thought you were sick. You were really funny. I know that everybody in our class is not laughing or joking about it and feeling worried."

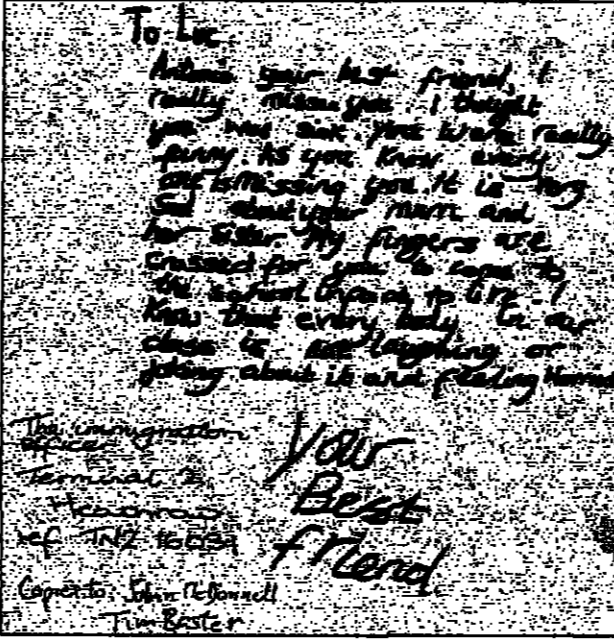
Clare Tappley, his form teacher, said: "He doesn't want to go. He would rather stay here. He doesn't speak French any more. Luc is a very friendly, outgoing child. He loves football. He took a very important part in our production of *Romeo and Juliet* last week, where he was much appreciated."

"He is a totally innocent little boy. He knows nothing about what is happening. He wants to be here. He is probably going back on to the streets. It is a dreadful situation."

The delay in deportation to allow more facts to be gathered on the boy's case followed communication between John McDonnell, MP, whose constituency includes the detention centre, and Michael O'Brien, the Home Office Minister.

Karen Buck, the boy's local MP, cautioned against deporting him. "No one wants to see a child uprooted from the place that has become his home," she said.

The Home Office said last night: "His deportation has been stayed pending consideration of representations made on his behalf."



Solicitor in jail over World Cup crash in Paris

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS AND FRANCES GIBB

A SOLICITOR was yesterday jailed in Paris after a magistrate opened an investigation into a charge that he drunkenly drove into a crowd celebrating France's World Cup win on the Champs-Elysees.

Dipak Jotangia was taken to La Santé prison still clad in the blue football shirt of the French team which he had been wearing on the night of the incident. The magistrate, Marie-Hélène Chanava, is investigating charges of "deliberate violence".

According to police, Mr Jotangia, who was in Paris for the final, had been drinking in a bar near the Champs-Elysees until about 1am on Monday, when he returned to his Alfa Romeo and then crashed into celebrating fans on the boulevard. Police tests apparently showed that he had 0.96 grammes of alcohol per litre of blood, more than twice the legal limit for driving. Ten people were injured, including four trainee po-

licemen and two Americans, but all were released from hospital within 48 hours.

The Foreign Office said: "Mr Jotangia has been arrested and charged in Paris this morning but we are waiting for more details from the French authorities."

The incident happened not far from the spot where another driver crashed her car into the crowd, killing one person and injuring 80. Jean-René Farhouat, Mr Jotangia's French lawyer, said that he expected his client to be released quickly since none of the victims had suffered major injuries.

Mr Jotangia, who was born in Mombasa but lives in North London, is a criminal law specialist in his mid-thirties and a partner in a London Law firm, Lakhania and Company.

□ In Marseilles, four English football hooligans were given jail terms of between two weeks and two months for violence at the England-Tunisia match.

Tory MP fined by Law Society

By Frances Gibb and Andrew Pierce



Streeter, fined £1,000 over conflict of interest

A NEWLY PROMOTED member of the Shadow Cabinet was yesterday fined £1,000 by the Law Society after admitting conduct unbefitting a solicitor.

The penalty was handed out to Gary Streeter, 43, only one month after he took over the Shadow Cabinet international development portfolio. Mr Streeter, a former Parliamentary Private Secretary to John Major, admitted the breach after accepting instructions to act for a client whose interests conflicted, or appeared likely to conflict, with other clients for whom he acted.

William Hague, who was aware of the Law Society hearing when he promoted Mr Streeter, is not planning any disciplinary action. "It is a technical offence," a senior Tory official said. "There was no reprimand." Mr Streeter

said last night: "It was a technical breach but I wish, I wish, it had never happened."

Roger Field, for the Law Society, told a Solicitors' Disciplinary Tribunal in London: "It was a conflict of interest par excellence." Allegations — first disclosed on *The Lawyer* magazine website this week — arose in 1991 when Mr Streeter, the MP for South West Devon, was working as a solicitor with the Plymouth firm Foot & Bowden. Mr Streeter, now a consultant with Foot & Bowden, advised two companies — M.G.C. Technical Services, owned by David and Lynda Moss, and Ivens Electronics, owned by Trevor and Jane Ivens.

The hearing was told that the two companies faced financial difficulties and had decided to merge under the new name of Ridgewood In-

dustries Ltd in 1991. Mr Streeter had helped to set up a "shell" company, Footlaw 26, to assist the merger. It became Ridgewood Industries Ltd.

In June 1991, Mr Streeter was asked to advise Mrs Moss in a mortgage application. Mr Field said: "There was a multiplicity of interests here,

and had Mr Streeter stepped back and analysed it, he would have realised he could not properly represent her and the other clients. His position was impossible."

Mr Streeter had a duty to reveal relevant facts to Mrs Moss about her application, including some financial problems of the company, but equally owed a duty to the companies to keep them informed of relevant facts, he said. The hearing was told that Mrs Moss was in no way "prejudiced" by Mr Streeter's actions. Mr Field said: "There is no suggestion of dishonesty and nothing to suggest his integrity is in question."

Mr Streeter, who became an MP in 1992, said: "With the benefit of hindsight, I accept it would have been wise to advise Mrs Moss to go to another solicitor, even though I believe she would have received the same advice."

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Disaffected IRA men threaten the peace

By MARTIN FLETCHER, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE threat to Northern Ireland's fragile peace posed by dissident republican terrorists has been growing while attention has been focused on the Drumcree crisis, security sources said yesterday.

In recent days the so-called Real IRA attempted three bomb attacks, any one of which could have pushed the tense Province over the brink had it succeeded. The group has attracted as many as 100 active members since its formation by the Provisional IRA's former quartermaster general last autumn. Most are disaffected Provisionals from the Irish Republic. The group has forged links to the Continuity IRA and the Irish National Liberation Army, republican splinter groups that share its strong opposition to a peace process that has in their view cemented Ireland's partition.

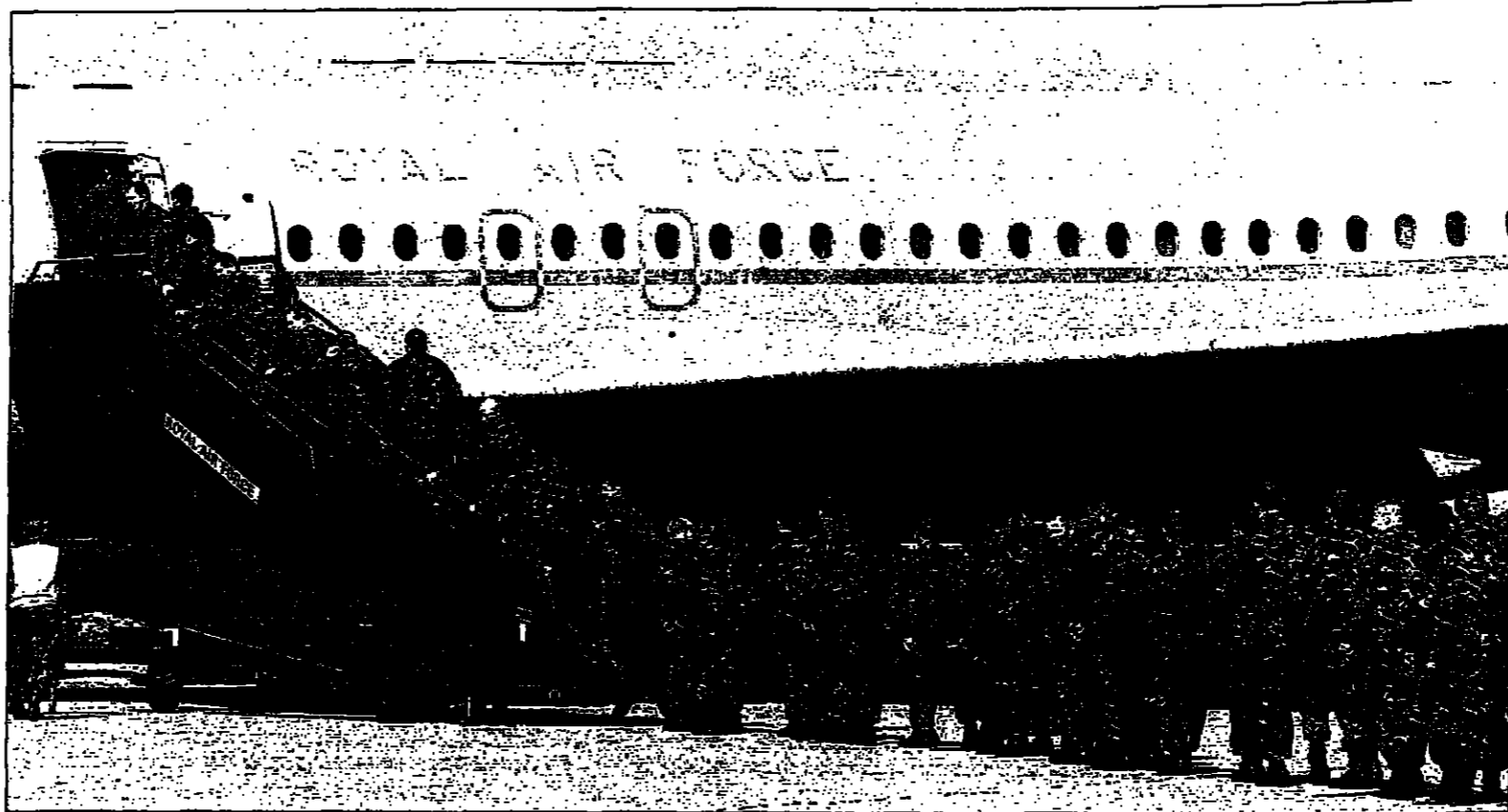
Downing Street said yesterday that it welcomed recent signals that the Provisional IRA may soon begin to decommission some of its weapons. However, sources said that there were no new signals

since last month's hint by the IRA's "commanding officer" in the Maze of eventual voluntary disarmament if the peace accord was fully implemented, and a report in the *Irish Times* that the Provisionals were preparing to identify the graves of those they had abducted and killed during the Troubles.

In recent months the "Real IRA" has carried out half a dozen bomb and mortar attacks on towns in Northern Ireland, and the Irish police have intercepted about ten car bombs destined for Northern Ireland or England. "They pose a serious threat," one senior security official said. "They are a very real concern."

Most of the group's senior members are well-known to the security forces, but it is now attempting to fill the authorities by recruiting young republicans with no record of terrorism.

Two days after incendiary devices were recovered in London, the security forces found a 1,400lb bomb hidden in a builder's trailer near Armagh City. The police sus-



The 1st Battalion The Kings Regiment returning to base near Blackpool after eight days patrolling Belfast during the Drumcree disturbances

pect that the device had been abandoned because of the heightened security during the Drumcree crisis. On Monday a 500lb car bomb was found and defused in Newry.

The group, whose stronghold is just south of the border in Co Louth, has also been operating with the Irish National Liberation Army and the Continuity IRA to extend its reach into Northern Ireland. Members of all three groups were seen at the funeral of a "Real IRA" member shot dead while trying to rob a van in Co Wicklow in April. "The link-up with INLA gives them a small 'in' into places such as

Belfast and Londonderry where they'd not have any strength," one official said.

Though the INLA claimed responsibility for the car bomb that destroyed the centre of Newtownhamilton in Co Armagh on the eve of last month's elections to Northern Ireland's Assembly, officials are sure the "Real IRA" was involved in its preparation.

The Irish police have had notable successes against the "Real IRA", including April's interception of a 1,000lb car bomb that was being driven on to a ferry and may have been destined for the Grand National. But the rebels came

close to destabilising the peace process earlier this year with bombs in Enniskillen, Moira, Portadown, and with mortar attacks on security bases.

It remains unclear how much unofficial help the "Real IRA" is receiving from among the Provisionals. It has acquired Semtex, previously possessed only by the Provisionals, and has operated with apparent impunity in certain IRA strongholds.

The "Real IRA" has links to the 32-County Sovereignty Committee whose spokesman is Bernadette Sands, sister of the hunger-striker Bobby Sands who died in 1981.

Company fined over outlawed hotline

By MARK HENDERSON

A TELEPHONE hotline company has been fined £2,500 and banned from operating premium-rate services for a year after being caught running outlawed promotions for the second time in a month.

The Independent Committee for the Supervision of Telephone Information Services took the action against First Phone, based in High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, following complaints from consumers who had received a letter telling them that they had won up to £1,600.

Recipients had to ring a premium-rate line costing £1 a minute to find out how to claim their prize, but the cost of the call was stated only in tiny print at the foot of the letter, in breach of the committee's rules. The letter promised a "guaranteed payout" of between £100 and £1,600 in cash or free gifts such as holidays and Rolex watches. Callers to the 0906 hotline were told they would qualify for a free personal telephone number with First Phone.

Last month, First Phone was fined £1,500 and banned from operating a similar line for six months after an investigation by the committee found that the company could not prove it was able to supply television sets and cash offered to consumers who signed up for a personal number.

First Phone was not available for comment yesterday.

ARRESTS OVER ARSON MURDERS

Two more local men were arrested yesterday in connection with Sunday's murder of the three young Quinn brothers in an arson attack on their home in Ballymoney (Martin Fletcher writes). A total of three men are now being held while a fourth has been released.

President Clinton, who plans to revisit Northern Ireland in September, has sent a letter to Chrissie Quinn, the boys' mother. It

read: "I know that it is impossible to make sense of this senseless act or to soothe with words the loss of your sons, but I want you to know that peace-loving people everywhere, here in America and around the world, mourn your loss and share your grief. Your family's tragedy redoubles our determination to do all we can to make sure that others need not have to experience what you are so courageously facing."

Army cadet death under scrutiny

By HELEN JOHNSTONE

THE Army is investigating whether procedures should be tightened after a post-mortem examination confirmed that a Sandhurst officer cadet died from heat exhaustion.

Graham Holmes, 23, died on Wednesday two weeks after collapsing at the end of a seven-mile march as part of endurance exercises at the Royal Military Academy. His death is the first from heat exhaustion in its 250-year history.

An inquest is to be opened today. The condition of another officer cadet is improving. Adrian Muir, 22, was taken to hospital on Wednesday after an eight-mile march.

The Ministry of Defence said: "If anything comes out of our inquiry we will act on it, although we are fairly satisfied that all that should be done is done." Any recommendation by the coroner would be taken up.

Solicitor cleared over gun struggle

By PAUL WILKINSON

A LAWYER who pulled a loaded gun on his girlfriend's jealous husband was yesterday cleared of possessing the weapon with intent to endanger life.

Gareth Jessop admitted confronting Robert Towersey with the Colt 45 after Towersey had smashed his way into his home, but said that he had armed himself only because he feared for his life.

Bradford Crown Court was told that two weeks earlier Towersey had struck his wife with the hilt of a diver's knife and rammed Mr Jessop's car.

Afterwards Mr Jessop and Towersey's wife, Julia, who has since divorced him, went on holiday for a week. When they returned in June last year they discovered a letter from Towersey saying "I've had enough". They were terrified and decided to keep the gun on a hall table for protection. Towersey, 31, forced his way

into Mr Jessop's house in Reddish, near Stockport, and a struggle began. Mr Jessop told the court that he threw the gun aside as soon as he realised that Towersey was unarmed. Towersey, a Territorial Army corporal, picked up the weapon and fired a shot into the floor.

The semi-automatic pistol was part of a collection legally held by Mr Jessop, 40, a partner of Pannone & Partners in Manchester.

The jury cleared him of possessing a firearm with intent to endanger life and also intent to cause a person to believe that unlawful violence would be used against them. Judge William Lowe, QC, said: "The law provides that if someone is acting in self-defence then they are not acting unlawfully."

Towersey has been jailed for 18 months for his attacks on the couple.

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سكوا من الأصل



The Prince of Wales at Guru Nanak Community Football Club in Kent yesterday, where he scored a penalty

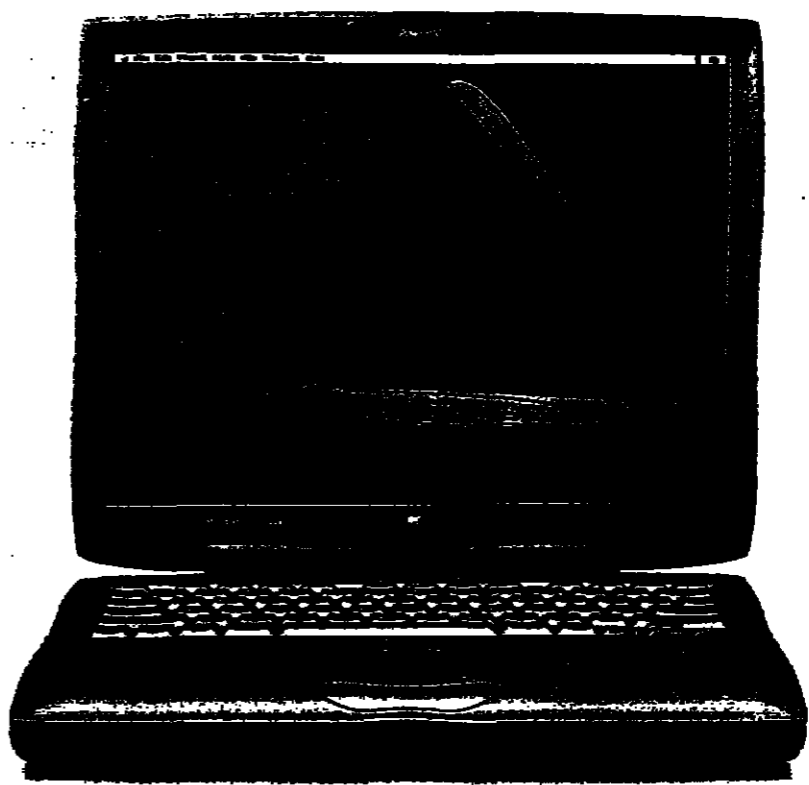
Prince puts footballer on the spot

THE Prince of Wales scored yesterday where David Batty failed, putting the ball in the back of the net from a penalty kick (Alan Hamilton writes). The man in goal was Sasa Ilic, of Charlton Athletic, who had secured his team's promotion to the FA Carling Premiership for this season by saving a penalty against Sunderland. "There is no way I am going to get it past him," muttered the Prince. But whether from nerves or tact, Ilic let in the shot. However, when the Prince was asked to repeat the performance for the benefit of photographers, Ilic was back on form. The Prince was visiting the Guru Nanak Community Football Club in Gravesend, Kent, where Charlton's professionals were coaching the Sikh club's youth team as part of the "Let's kick racism out of football" campaign.



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200,000 Britons may have chronic fatigue syndrome

BY IAN MURRAY
MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

CHRONIC fatigue syndrome is a real medical condition with debilitating and distressing effects. Sir Kenneth Calman, the Chief Medical Officer, said yesterday. Giving government recognition to the poorly understood illness, Sir Kenneth accepted new research showing that there were up to 200,000 sufferers of all ages in Britain. It is now agreed that the syndrome is a serious

disease that the National Health Service must learn to handle. Also called myalgic encephalomyelitis (ME), the condition was virtually unknown until the mid 1980s, when it was disparagingly nicknamed yuppie flu and many doctors regarded it as a psychological condition. Sir Kenneth said that the mixture of physical and psychological symptoms made the disease difficult to diagnose and treat. "How it is defined is fraught with difficulties because diagnosis

hinges on things that are not there," he said, "which is not a good way of making a diagnosis." For this reason, he added, a working group of clinicians, carers and patients was to be set up to give advice on treating and managing the disease. A spokesman for the Medical Research Council also said that the condition was an important public health problem. "There are many questions amenable to conventional research and we

are willing to look at high-quality competitive proposals to do work in this field," he said. Scientific research into the condition has been carried out for the past eight years with £4 million from the Linbury Trust, a charitable foundation set up by the Sainsbury family. Alan McGregor from King's College London, chairman of the scientific panel that studied the evidence, said it was not a yuppie condition. "Social class is irrelevant," he said. "It is a substantial bur-

den of ill health that affects the entire community. We have to educate doctors that it is a real problem and none of us can be allowed to sweep it under the carpet any more, put people on the back and say, 'Nothing is wrong with you. You must go back to work.'" He had become interested in studying the condition, he said, because he came across the case of an 18-year-old girl suffering from the disease. Her parents had mortgaged their home and got into financial problems to pay for her to be treated by charlatans. "In hospitals we come across these scenarios of people who have exhausted their financial resources looking in vain for treatment," he said. Naomi Wayne, chief executive of Action for ME, said patients often knew more about the disease than doctors. "They are often forced or bullied into some kind of treatment that actually makes them worse," she said. The ME Association said in a statement that a "significant minority" of GPs refused to accept that ME existed, and treated patients in an unsympathetic and sometimes hostile manner.

Symptoms do not have a single cause

When Esther Rantzen devoted her programme to a discussion of chronic fatigue syndrome, from which her daughter suffers, she seemed to have chosen the doctors to oppose her point of view with considerable care. At first sight, we were all to some extent caricatures of those who practise medicine. I suspect that I was selected as a parody of the archetypal white, middle-class, older doctor. She rightly assumed that I would view the opinions derived from research sponsored by the ME Association with some suspicion. Miss Rantzen presumably realised that I belong to a generation of

doctors who remember the same symptoms now described as CFS being labelled in my youth by older doctors as neurasthenia, and by those who were just my seniors as effort syndrome. However, there is nothing in Sir Kenneth Calman's comments that would be disputed by those who hold the medical viewpoint, still accepted by about 80 per cent of doctors, that CFS is a group of symptoms, and not a separate disease related to some specific cause. We do not believe sufferers of CFS are malingering, and do believe that they are genuinely ill. No doctor could criticise Sir Kenneth's decision to set up

a working party to study the problem. Much of the controversy about CFS has stemmed from a refusal from many of those who suffer from it, or who care for those who have it, to accept that physical symptoms could be part of a psychological disease, and that psychological troubles can stem from physical ill health. The body and mind are interlinked, and it is therefore difficult, if not impossible, to sort out which is responsible for what. The important lesson is that doctors must always adopt a holistic approach. DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Parents halt daughter's inquest

The parents of a bulimia sufferer who died after a series of unexplained fits stopped an inquest in an effort to prove that she did not die from the eating disorder. An initial post-mortem examination on Louise Benson, 20, of Wrotham, Kent, a student at Reading University, found death was caused by cardiac arrhythmia due to bulimia. Peter Bedford, East Berkshire deputy coroner, adjourned the case while Ms Benson's parents investigated whether an hereditary condition was the cause.

Banker returns

A Clydesdale Bank manager who disappeared days before £50,000 was reported missing from his branch has returned home. Charles Young turned up at a police station in Cumbria 16 days after he left his Edinburgh home telling his family he was going to the pub to watch the World Cup.

Rape case stops

A rape case against a police inspector has been dropped by the prosecution on the ground that there was no evidence against him. Geoffrey Smith, 31, an inspector at Paddington Green Police Station in West London, was accused of raping a 28-year-old WPC.

Drinking up

The price of a pint of beer went up by nearly 5 per cent last year, with the average pint of lager costing £1.87, a survey by the Campaign for Real Ale showed. Real ale costs an average of £1.71, and is cheapest in the North West at £1.47. The price of cider fell by 2.9 per cent on average.

CORRECTION

A report (July 15) attributed to Professor Sir Roy Calne remarks in fact made by the American surgeon Dr Barry Kaban. Sir Roy is not, as stated in the report, a Nobel prizewinner. We apologise for the errors.

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Cook hints at trouble for coup diplomat

Questions remain about Peter Penfold's conduct despite praise for his heroism in Africa, reports Nicholas Watt

ROBIN COOK hinted yesterday that Britain's High Commissioner to Sierra Leone faced a rough ride from the independent inquiry into the arms-to-Africa affair.



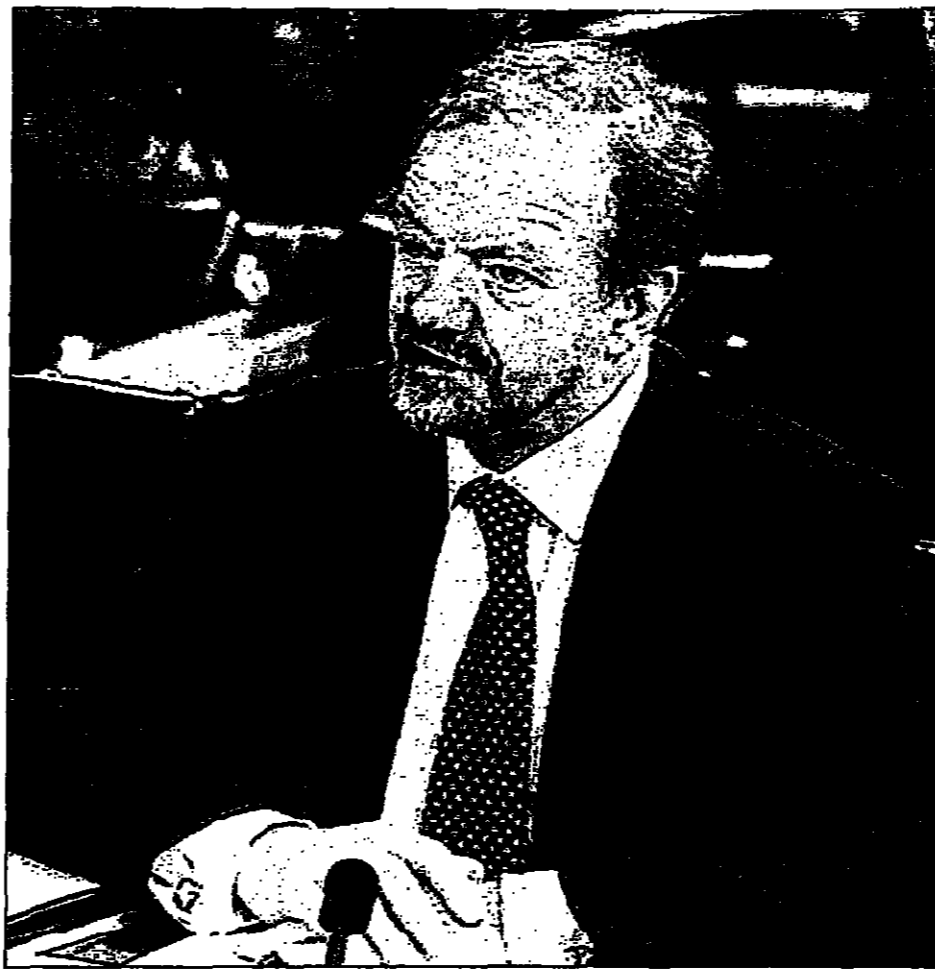
Penfold showed immense courage

Appearing before an all-party committee of MPs, the Foreign Secretary praised Peter Penfold for his courage during last year's coup in Sierra Leone, but pointedly failed to applaud his subsequent conduct.

Mr Penfold was named in April by the British mercenaries Sandline International as the man who advised President Kabbah, Sierra Leone's ousted leader, to ask the company for help in restoring him to power.

renew speculation that Mr Penfold is facing tough questions over his conduct in the run-up to the counter-coup that restored President Kabbah to power in March. In a letter to Mr Cook in April, Sandline's solicitors alleged that Mr Penfold started the counter-coup operation by advising President Kabbah to ask Sandline for assistance.

Mr Cook added that that he did not believe that any officials had broken the arms embargo, which banned the supply of arms to both sides in Sierra Leone after the coup. "There was nobody anywhere in the public service — as far as I'm aware — adopting a policy deliberately aimed at undermining or contradicting the official policy of Her Majesty's Government."



Robin Cook at yesterday's hearing. Afterwards he declared: "I'm a free man"

Office. MPs were shown a summary of 190 telegrams in a 30-minute private session with Mr Cook yesterday. One MP from each of the three major parties will be allowed to see the telegrams in full to check that the summaries are accurate.

Mr Cook answered questions on Sierra Leone in public for less than half an hour yesterday after Ernie Ross (Lab, Dundee West) spent the first 20 minutes asking ques-

in private. Mr Cook and his officials trooped out while MPs privately voted Mr Ross down. Ten minutes after the adjournment Mr Cook was summoned back to answer Sir John Stanley (C, Tonbridge and Malling).

Blair urged to start pro-euro campaign now

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

SIR LEON BRITTON, Britain's senior EU Commissioner, will today urge Tony Blair to start campaigning for British membership of the European single currency and hold a referendum before the next general election.

"The time has now come for the Government to switch from a phase of preparation to a phase of persuasion," Sir Leon, a former Tory cabinet minister, will tell a London audience.

He will say that it is vital to start convincing the public of the merits of the euro now because it is increasingly clear that the currency, to be launched in January, will be successful, offering great benefits to the 11 participating states. "The balance of influence in the European Union is beginning to shift to our disadvantage. Even if the policy of 'wait and see' stays in place for the moment, the case for moving faster than previously envisaged becomes that much stronger."

ing a decision. If the euro is successful, any such further delay would be contrary... to the national interest. The European Commission has slowed down plans for a law under the Social Chapter that would force all but the smallest firms to create works councils and consult employees on all important decisions.



Britton: says it is time to persuade the public

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Migrant policy 'beggars belief'

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN, SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE Health Secretary expressed his astonishment last night that successive governments had allowed British children to be "press-ganged" and shipped overseas to repopulate the distant parts of the Commonwealth without their parents' consent.

Australia and New Zealand, told Mr Dobson that they were traumatised by evidence given to them by scores of former child migrants. Audrey Wise, Labour MP for Preston, said that they had met former child migrants who had been habitually raped or "forced to have sexual contact with animals" when they had arrived at farm schools or children's homes, many of which were run by Christian charities, in Australia or New Zealand.

Welfare is 'Labour's Vietnam'

BY PHILIP WEBSTER

THE Government's failure to tackle welfare reform would turn out to be "Labour's Vietnam", William Hague said yesterday. Criticising this week's spending review as "the biggest gamble of them all", the Tory leader accused the Prime Minister of losing his nerve.

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European court outlaws designer-label discounts

By CHARLES BREMNER AND STEPHEN FARRELL

A BOOMING market in cut-price designer clothes, sportswear and perfumes was outlawed by the European Court of Justice yesterday. The Luxembourg court ruled that supermarkets and discount stores that had been importing goods that had been imported into Europe without the brand owner's consent.

Asda said it feared that the decision would be "a smoke-screen for higher prices" and Nigel Griffiths, the Consumer Affairs Minister, called for a Europe-wide investigation into restrictions on cut-price goods. But the European Commission said the ruling was a victory for the consumer because it "guaranteed the constant quality of products circulating within the EU".

Chains including Tesco, Sainsbury and Sainsbury's began to import designer-label goods last year after being rejected as "official" outlets by companies such as Calvin Klein and Levi's, which preferred more exclusive outlets for their goods.

The supermarkets bought the products at low prices from outside Europe and offered them at big discounts. The so-called grey market, worth £100 million a year, was helped by the economic collapse in the Far East which has created a glut of designer goods for resale in Europe.

Tesco said the court decision was "a dark and sad day" for customers. The chain imported Levi's jeans from Mexico after the company refused to make it an authorised dealer.

The strategy is designed to attract more customers rather than to make profits. Tesco buys Levi's 501 jeans for £26

and sells them for £30, leaving almost no profit after costs are taken into account. A licensed retailer buys them for £26 and sells them for £50 or more.

The court case involved Silhouette, the Austrian spectacle company, which had complained that an Austrian discount chain was selling its glasses at a discount having bought them from a Bulgarian distributor.

The judges said that a 1988 directive meant that a trademark owner could prevent its products being imported into the European Economic Area without approval. The EEA comprises the 15 EU states plus Iceland, Norway and Liechtenstein.

The Government's criticism of the ruling caused surprise in Brussels because Britain had asked the Court of Justice to rule in favour of the brand owners. The British submission to the court, by Treasury lawyers, was made early last year under the Conservative Government and was not changed when Labour took over, officials said.

Levi Strauss said that the decision appeared to be "helpful in enhancing our trademark rights more consistently throughout Europe".

Adidas said that it invested huge sums in developing high-performance textiles and footwear and felt that its products should be sold in an "appropriate environment".

"We believe that there are significant advantages for consumers going into retail outlets where they will receive the technical advice and support they expect," a spokesman said.



Heavily discounted designer clothing on sale at a Tesco supermarket yesterday

EU judges bring cheer for Scotch distillers

By SHIRLEY ENGLISH

THE Scotch Whisky Association has won a six-year legal battle to stop imposters using the spirit's name.

The European Court of Justice yesterday upheld the 1989 legal definition of whisky by ruling that drinks with an alcoholic strength of less than 40 per cent cannot be labelled as whisky. The judgment ended the association's action against Cofepp, the makers of Gold River, a French blend of Scotch, Canadian and American whiskies diluted with water, which is 30 per cent proof. It was claimed that the company was breaking the law by passing the drink off as a "blended whisky spirit".

The judges said that Gold River qualified as a spirit drink, but not a whisky.

Campbell Evans, of the association, said that the action had been taken to protect the "integrity" of Scotch whisky. "If people buy a product that they think is whisky, and it isn't, then they may be put off the genuine product," he said.

THE TIMES ON SATURDAY

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Style, page 20

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Corruption alert as World Bank calls in auditors

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

THE World Bank, which campaigns against corruption in borrower states, has hired independent auditors to investigate evidence of embezzlement in its own ranks.

James Wolfensohn, the bank's Australian-born president, said he had created an internal fraud team and hired Price Waterhouse, the international accountants, to examine costs from the annual \$25 billion (£15.5 billion) development fund.

An internal review had uncovered "alarming information" about possible kickbacks and embezzlement, according to bank officials who said that projects coming under scrutiny included bank-funded efforts in Russia, Japan and Indonesia.

"This is not an easy process for an organisation to undergo," Mr Wolfensohn told staff. "Over the bank's 54-year history, we have established an unparalleled reputation for our integrity, our independence and our behaviour. I am encouraging all staff to bring information of possible wrongdoing to the appropriate parties and to co-operate with any internal investigations."

One part of the investigation, he said, had led to a civil lawsuit against a former bank official, Fritz Rodriguez. The suit is seeking to recover tens of thousands of dollars in alleged kickbacks the bank believes Mr Rodriguez took from a contractor for an Algerian water project.

The bank alleges that the contractor was Mr Rodriguez's former Maryland neighbour, David Pearson. Mr Rodriguez, who retired last year, has denied the allegations.

The World Bank is one of Washington's largest employers, with about 8,600 employ-

ees. It pours billions into developing countries for ventures ranging from infrastructure improvements to baby-feeding programmes. The money comes from selling low-interest bonds backed by its 180 member nations.

The bank has long been a target for questions over inefficiency and the opportunities for corruption. Since his appointment in 1995, Mr Wolfensohn has encouraged employees to voice their concerns.

Officials were tipped off about corruption suspicions by bank employees, consultants and government officials in the countries concerned.

The United States remains the most powerful member and significant force at the bank. The US Treasury has been kept informed of the investigation.



The Pope walking with two sticks yesterday in the north Italian Dolomites, near the resort of Lorenzago di Cadore, where he is on holiday until next week

WORLD IN BRIEF

Protesting Gurkhas besiege embassy

The British Embassy in Kathmandu came under siege yesterday when about 15,000 retired Gurkhas and their families protested over the size of the pensions they receive for serving in the British Army (Michael Evans writes). A protest letter, demanding pensions and benefits on a par with other British soldiers and the right of residence in Britain or a British territory, was handed to Lloyd Smith, the Ambassador in the Nepalese capital.

The demonstration went ahead despite the announcement by the Ministry of Defence in London last month that Gurkha pensions were to be increased by up to 51 per cent. The rising level of protests by one Gurkha organisation has angered senior British army commanders in London. They insist that the pension scales for Gurkhas are sufficiently generous when compared with the standard of living in Nepal, where the average per capita income is only £120 a year. However, Gurkhas said they would begin an embassy sit-in on August 17.

Agent's evidence blocked

Washington: The US Court of Appeals temporarily blocked the head of President Clinton's security guard, Larry Cockell, from testifying before the grand jury in the Monica Lewinsky investigation. The court said its ruling would stay in effect until it decides whether to accept the Administration's appeal against two court decisions ordering Secret Service agents to testify in the investigation by Kenneth Starr, the independent counsel. (AP)

Police stop Kosovo 'MPs'

Pristina: Kosovo Albanians inaugurated their parliament, which neither Belgrade authorities nor the outside world recognise, and Serbian police immediately intervened and ordered the legislators to disperse. Witnesses said that police arrived after a brief session during which political representatives elected by the ethnic Albanian majority last March were sworn in. The legislators left peacefully. (Reuters)

Elm for Dutch sex slaves

Tokyo: Japan's Asian Women's Fund, a group supporting women forced to serve as sex slaves to the Imperial Army in the Second World War, has signed a compensation agreement with a Dutch organization in The Hague. The agreement would give £1 million to Dutch women who were forced by Japanese troops to provide them with sex at front-line brothels, the fund said. It estimates that there are 100 Dutch "comfort women" still alive. (AFP)

Star bows to Greek protests

New York: Antonio Banderas, right, has withdrawn from a film about Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, the founder of modern Turkey, after intense protests by Greek-Americans. The New York Times reported. Protesters feared a favourable film portrayal might lead to a warming of public feeling toward Turkey. Producer Tarquin Olivier is now without a star for the £15 million film. (AP)



Umpire denies sex abuse

Hobart: Steve Randell, Australia's most experienced international cricket umpire, was charged with 26 counts of sexual abuse when he appeared in a Tasmanian court. Mr Randell, 42, was charged with 25 counts of indecent assault and one of having sexual intercourse with a person under the age of 17. He denied all the charges and was released on bail. The charges were reported to concern alleged incidents between 1979 and 1995. (Reuters)

Gettysburg redress

Gettysburg, Pennsylvania: Christian Evo, 52, of Muret, France, an American Civil War enthusiast who admitted accidentally shooting and wounding a man in the neck during a re-enactment of the Battle of Gettysburg, was sentenced to two days' jail, ordered to pay more than \$28,550 (£17,000) to cover his victim's medical bills, and fined \$2,000. Evo, who had already spent two days in prison, paid part of his fine and headed home. (AP)



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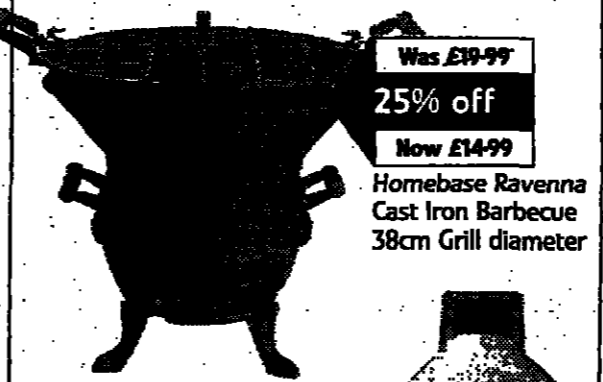


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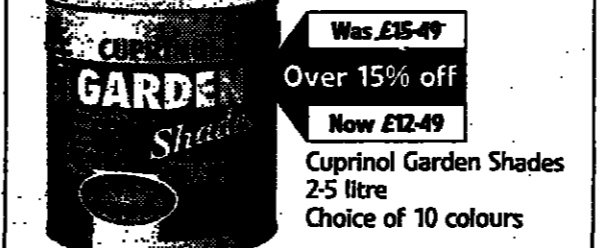
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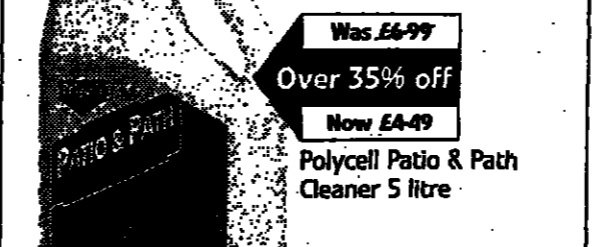
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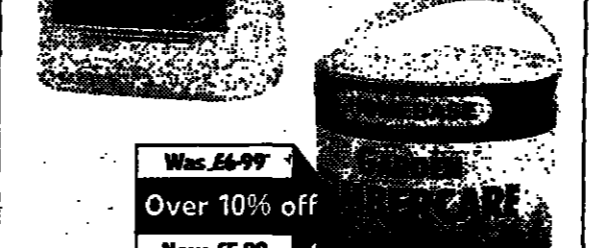
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Yeltsin will attend Romanov funeral

Change of heart to atone for sins of Russia's dark past

FROM MICHAEL BINYON IN MOSCOW
PHOTOGRAPHS BY CHRIS HARRIS

IN A dramatic change of mind, President Yeltsin yesterday announced that he will represent his country in a solemn ceremony of mourning and commemoration when the bones of its last emperor, Tsar Nicholas II, and his family are laid to rest today in the ancestral church of the Peter and Paul Fortress in St Petersburg.

Mr Yeltsin's last-minute change of heart has added vast political significance to the funeral that will now be broadcast live across Russia. He will lead the mourning for the last Tsar of the Romanov dynasty as well as the millions slaughtered in the wake of the Russian Revolution.

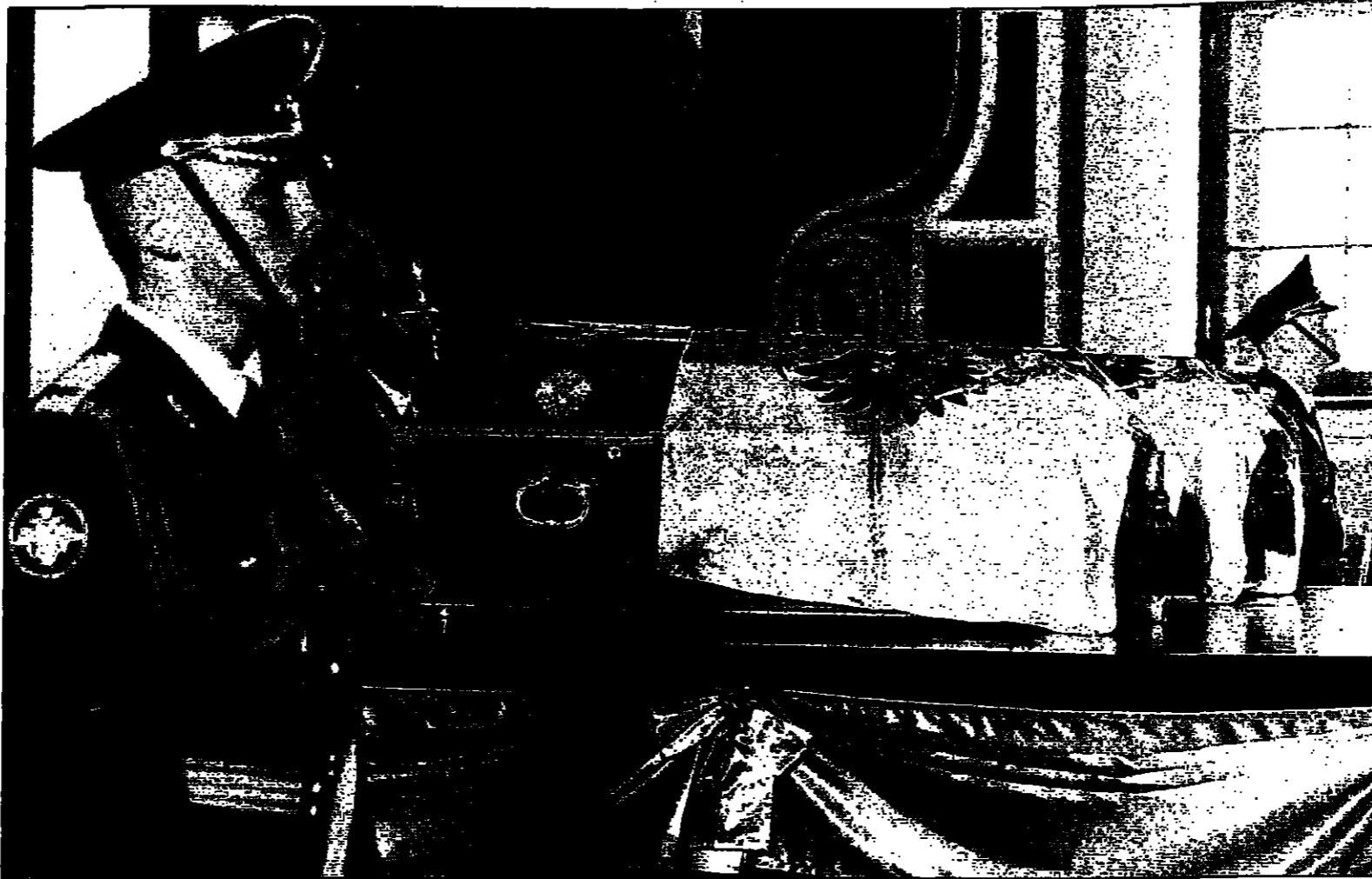
"After reflecting for a long time and talking to many citizens... I have come to the conclusion that I should go tomorrow to St Petersburg," Mr Yeltsin said in a televised statement. "The truth has been concealed for 80 years, and we have to tell this truth tomorrow."

The Kremlin said in laying to rest the remains of innocent people who were murdered "the present generation of Russians is striving to atone

for the sins of their predecessors". Nine tiny coffins, carrying the remains of Nicholas, his wife, three of his daughters, the family doctor and three servants, were flown out from Yekaterinburg, the town in the Urals where the family was exiled and then murdered. About 1,000 people attended the three-hour departure service, attended also by Vladimir Solov'yov, the official investigator of the murders who, like others, was weeping.

The coffins arrived at St Petersburg where they were escorted with full ceremony along a route lined with flags at half-mast to the cathedral in the Peter and Paul Fortress, the traditional resting-place of the Romanov Tsars.

The deep bells of the slender steeple rang out slowly as four uniformed officers, marching with funeral step, bore each coffin resting on a tablet slowly across the cobbled courtyard and into the freshly painted church. One by one they laid down the coffins, lined with silver or royal gold and velvet and decorated with an etched name-plate and the sloping Orthodox cross. Church officials placed them



The tiny coffins with the remains of Tsar Nicholas II and his wife Alexandra in the Peter and Paul Fortress in St Petersburg for today's burial

on a single pedestal, painted to look like marble, in a pyramid beneath the chandeliers. Nearby were the marble vaults of earlier Tsars and a bust of Peter the Great, the founder of Russia's new capital.

As muffled drums sounded, the remains of the servants and grand duchesses were laid on the lower stands; Alexandra, the Tsar's beloved wife and grand-daughter of Queen Victoria, was carried in

next, her coffin, like that of her husband, draped with the yellow-and-black flag of the Romanovs. The two rested side by side on the top of the pyramid, united with their family and servants as they had been in the cellar on that murderous summer night 80 years ago.

As the choir began chanting the Orthodox liturgy, a small group of dignitaries and mourners came in. They included some of the 50 descendants of the Romanovs whom the Government has invited, some for the first time to Russia, from abroad.

Leading article, page 23

Church dispute over DNA saddens Prince

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

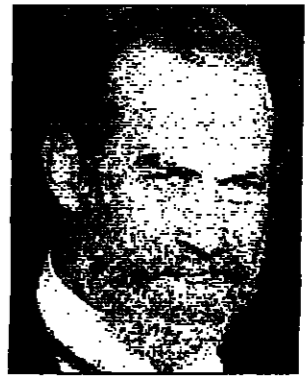
PRINCE MICHAEL of Kent yesterday spoke of his sadness over the controversy surrounding the burial of Russia's last Tsar. "This was a great opportunity to heal divisions in Russian society," he said before flying to St Petersburg to attend today's ceremony.

"It is... ironic that the Orthodox Church, for so long the bedrock of the people's faith, should now find it difficult to give this important ceremony the blessing the country had expected," the Prince said. "I have studied the results of DNA testing carried out in England and abroad. I am quite convinced that the remains are of the Tsar and his family."

The Tsar and the Romanovs are related to the British Royal Family, and the Duke of Edinburgh supplied a DNA sample to help to verify the authenticity of the remains. Prince Michael's maternal grandmother, Princess Nicholas of Greece — born Grand Duchess Helen Vladimirovna — was a first cousin of Nicholas II.

Prince Michael is attending the burial with the Queen's blessing. "I am not representing the Queen because neither Her Majesty nor any other visitor to the ceremony received an invitation."

In St Petersburg, during her state visit to Russia in 1994, the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh toured the cathedral where the Romanov Tsars are buried in the former imperial capital.



Prince Michael: trip blessed by the Queen

Why finger of the Tsarina almost spoil President's plans

BY MICHAEL BINYON

WHEN President Yeltsin proposed a ceremony to inter the remains of the last Tsar of Russia, he had in mind a dignified and historic occasion to cement the reconciliation of Church and State, mark a symbolic break with the Communist past and clear up the myths and misinformation surrounding the demise of the Romanovs.

He did not anticipate intrigues, schisms and political opposition, or the anger of nationalist and religious zealots who rejected DNA evidence that the remains were authentic.

Until yesterday the funeral was in danger of becoming a tawdry affair, boycotted by political and spiritual

leaders. Then, with his talent for dramatic surprise, Mr Yeltsin announced that he would, after all, attend. He insisted that he would lead national remembrance for the millions slaughtered — overwhelmingly by the Communists — after 1917.

His decision sets him at odds with the Russian Orthodox Church, whose scepticism about the bones' authenticity has caused puzzlement. Patriarch Aleksii II, insisting that the DNA tests are fallible, is to hold a rival ceremony of remembrance today at a monastery outside Moscow. The Archbishop of St Petersburg, on the pretext of attending a church conference in Canterbury, will also be absent. Church sources say that the Patriarch

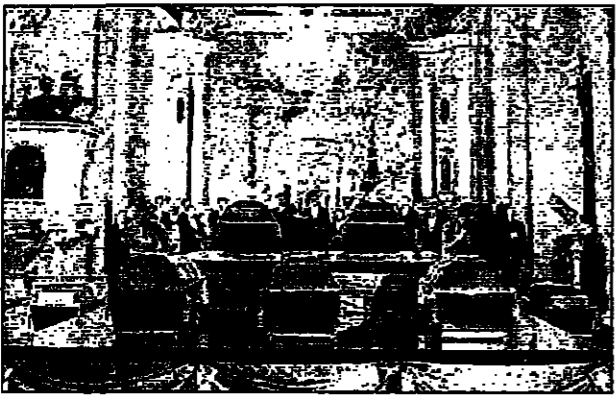
has vacillated because he does not want to involve the Church in political controversy. They note his close ties with Yuri Luzhkov, the Mayor of Moscow, who campaigned to have the bones interred in the city's grandiose new cathedral, erected at huge expense but needing a holy attraction.

But by far the most important reason, church sources say, is the wish to lay hands on the vast wealth of the Russian Church overseas. The Patriarch is in the midst of negotiations to reunify the resurgent Moscow church with the breakaway church established in exile after the revolution. The White Russian church is immensely rich. It declared the Tsar a saint soon after the revolution, and in 1924

received a finger, thought to belong to the Tsarina. It was declared a holy relic and buried in a church built by Russian exiles in memory of Nicholas in Brussels in 1936.

Accepting the authenticity of the Yekaterinburg bones would embarrass the exiled church, undermining the claim of the relic which it has refused to submit to scientific analysis.

Mr Yeltsin has admitted that his decision in 1977, as party secretary in Sverdlovsk (now Yekaterinburg again), to obey orders from Moscow and destroy Ipatiev House — where the Romanovs were held — lies heavily on his conscience. For him, today's ceremony is a step of personal and national reconciliation.



The bones of the Romanov family lying in state in the splendour of the fortress cathedral yesterday

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Divers aim to unlock Bounty's secrets

Shipwreck may uncover details of mutineers' life on Pitcairn Island, writes

Roger Maynard

THE wreck of HMS *Bounty*, which carried Fletcher Christian and his mutineers to remote Pitcairn Island in the South Pacific, may soon shed fresh light on one of history's most enduring seafaring sagas.

After more than two centuries at the bottom of the surf which laps the shore of the Pacific's last remaining British Overseas Territory, the vessel could be about to give up its secrets, thanks to an Australian expedition.

The team, from James Cook University in Townsville, hopes to find evidence of the European sailors' lifestyle and what happened after the mutiny.

While it is known that the *Bounty* was deliberately set on fire, the purpose of doing so has never been definitively established and may well have been against Christian's orders.

If the researchers find personal possessions on the wreck, it will suggest that the fire was quick and unexpected by the rest of the crew.

"I think we will get a much better idea of what really



Captain Bligh is seized by the mutineers; and, right, he and loyal crew members are cast adrift from the *Bounty* by Fletcher Christian and his followers. The ship then made its way to Pitcairn Island



Captain Bligh is seized by the mutineers; and, right, he and loyal crew members are cast adrift from the *Bounty* by Fletcher Christian and his followers. The ship then made its way to Pitcairn Island

happened after the mutiny," Peter Veth, project co-ordinator, said yesterday.

"Even if we find only a few personal items or dietary material, we might learn how many people were killed and at what stage," he said.

The archaeologists also hope to establish how society restructured itself on Pit-

cairn after the mutineers landed in 1790.

While much has been written about the crew's time there, most of the stories stem from information provided by John Adams, who was found by a whaling vessel in 1808.

He kept no written records and gave differing accounts

of his time there to visiting sailors. Christian and the seven men who led the mutiny against Captain William Bligh had sailed the *Bounty* from Tahiti to escape British Admiralty justice. Apart from Adams, they all died within a few years, mostly at the hands of Polynesians who murdered five of them.

The project is the idea of Nigel Erskine, a postgraduate student at James Cook University, who wants to know how such a motley crew of subversives mixed with the Polynesians and created such an extraordinary society.

He also hopes to learn about the role of the Polyn-

sian women who sustained the mutineers. "Because of the chauvinistic way history has been written, their stories have been totally overlooked," he said.

Despite the passage of time, the researchers believe there is every likelihood of finding the ship's fittings and other artefacts in good

condition on the wreck when the expedition begins in September.

Protected by large rocks and sealed into airtight compartments by sediment, the remains could be remarkably well preserved.

"In fact, there could be a lot more preserved than people think," Mr Veth said.

Permission to search the wreck was given by the islanders after lengthy negotiations with the university.

Pitcairn, which has a population of just 38, is a lush paradise with a tiny post office and not much else. Commercial vessels with supplies visit only three or four times a year.

Britain scuppers plan for 'opt-out' deal on war crimes court

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

A LAST-DITCH attempt yesterday to salvage the founding United Nations conference on the establishment of a world war crimes court collapsed when Britain broke ranks with the United States and joined a majority of "like-minded" nations in rejecting a proposal which would have allowed dissenting nations to opt out of the court's jurisdiction.

Under the compromise — put forward by Japan — the US and other states opposed to an International Criminal Court (ICC) with extensive powers and independent from the UN Security Council could have opted out for a period of ten years, which would then be renewable. As the conference hovered on the brink, Britain was reported to have at first

joined the US, France, China and Russia in backing the opt-out. But delegates later said the so-called "like-minded" group of 60 countries which favours a powerful autonomous ICC, a group headed by Canada and including many Third World countries, had totally rejected the plan, and that Britain had joined them.

There were also suggestions that the draft text, to be voted on today — the last day of the five-week meeting — could be altered so that, whereas genocide would trigger automatic ICC jurisdiction, war crimes and crimes against humanity would not. Furious human rights activists said this would render the court meaningless.

Mary Robinson, the UN Commissioner for Human Rights and former Irish Presi-

dent, wrote to all delegates expressing her deep concern. "We cannot have a court based on opt-ins and opt-outs," she said.

Further last-minute obstacles arose over whether the use of nuclear weapons should be classed as a war crime, a proposal advanced by India but resisted by the Big Five. The US, which has all along resisted the idea of a powerful world court able to prosecute war crimes independently of the UN Security Council, said there appeared to be little scope left for a compromise. Diplomats indicated that the US might abstain or consider signing at a later date.

Italy, which is hosting the conference, said the delegates were in negotiating phase. But David Scheffer, head of the US delegation, said the US had so far found no common ground with the "like-minded" nations, who want the ICC prosecutor to have extensive powers and full autonomy from the Security Council.

Mr Scheffer said that the American reservations were shared by other major countries, including China, India, Russia and France. Britain had given cautious approval to the ICC, although it shared some of the doubts felt by the United States.

The concept of a world war crimes court has been nurtured at the UN since the end of the Second World War. But until now prosecutions have been confined to ad hoc war crimes tribunals in The Hague. The International Court of Justice in The Hague does not itself deal with war crimes, but only with disputes between states, and its jurisdiction is limited to those states which have duly recognised its competence.

Under proposals tabled last month when the Rome conference opened, the president of the Court would be elected for a three-year period, and would be chosen from a total of 19 judges, drawn from different nations, who would serve a nine-year term. The prosecutor would also serve for nine years, and would be in charge of investigations.

Leading article, page 23



Robinson: concerned at opt-out proposals.



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Beijing 'Mr Big' faces bribes trial

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN BEIJING

CHINESE prosecutors have charged the disgraced former Communist Party chief, Chen Xitong, with corruption and dereliction of duty. It was reported yesterday that a trial — likely to be the biggest since the fall of the ultra-left Gang of Four in the late 1970s — is expected soon, analysts believe.

The move is likely to please the city's 13 million inhabitants, who remember how Mr Chen, known as "Mr Big", justified the army's suppression of the students' pro-democracy movement in Tiananmen Square in June 1989.

An official with the Supreme People's Procuratorate confirmed yesterday that the headline Mr Chen, 68, who was also Beijing's Mayor, had been indicted, the most senior party official ever exposed in a corruption scandal.

Mr Chen was dismissed from his post in 1995, ejected from the Politburo and Central Committee, and expelled from the Communist Party last year.

Though his crimes have not been spelled out, Mr Chen is said to have "unshirkable responsibility" for corruption involving lucrative property deals and lurid magazines amid talk of luxurious villas and hotel suites where he entertained mistresses and models. He was earlier accused of leading "a

corrupt and decadent life" and of soliciting gifts and embezzling funds.

A Deputy Mayor, Wang Baosen, committed suicide in 1995, an event that led to Mr Chen's fall. Wang had been accused of taking bribes for construction permits. "After investigation, the Beijing Municipal People's Procuratorate have brought charges involving corruption and dereliction of duty to the Municipal Higher People's Court," the official said.

The handling of Mr Chen's case has

been seen as a litmus test of Beijing's determination to deal with abuse of power at the highest level of government. "They always take out the flies, never the tigers," goes one popular expression, though this time a tiger seems to have been caught.

Official corruption irks ordinary Chinese more than any other issue. During the 1989 demonstrations Mr Chen rejected student attacks on corruption within the municipal party and the Beijing Government, saying he earned only 300 yuan (about £23 a month). It was Mr Chen who drew up the official report on the bloody suppression of the students. In it he accused leading intellectuals of organising a conspiracy.

Many in Beijing enjoyed the irony that, having attacked "bourgeois liberalism", Mr Chen was then accused by his own party paper, the *Beijing Daily*, of undermining the capital's stability with "rotten bourgeois ideology".

Protest over detainees: A group of 100 dissidents yesterday urged Chinese leaders to free five activists detained for trying to register an opposition political party, the Hong Kong-based Information Centre of Human Rights and Democratic Movement in China said in a statement. (Reuters)



Chen Xitong: justified attack on Tiananmen Square students



This dress, made from patches of gold worth 1 billion lire (£370,000), was shown in Rome yesterday as part of Alexandra Fede's autumn collection. Style, page 20

Israeli who sold gas to Iran is jailed for 16 years

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

THE former paratrooper at the centre of the treason, sex and political scandal that has mesmerised Israel for a week was yesterday sentenced to 16 years' jail for selling poison gas equipment to the country's arch-enemy, Iran.

Within minutes of the sentence on Nahum Manbar, 52, being handed down in a packed Tel Aviv district court, Amnon Zichroni, for the defence, announced that all aspects would be appealed to the Supreme Court — including allegations of sexual impropriety by the chief judge and allegations that he had been influenced by improper contacts with Binyamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister.

Mr Netanyahu claimed vindication and praised the severity of the sentence for what he described as "a very, very grave crime". He announced his willingness to answer questions before any kind of investigation the legal authorities chose to set up.

Legal sources said that the Attorney-General was under pressure to mount a full-scale inquiry into the allegations based on an affidavit and separate tapes recorded by Manbar's wife, Francine.

She told Israel radio that her husband had been made a "scapegoat" for Israeli arms deals with Iran in the early 1990s, and compared his trial to the 19th-century Dreyfus Affair in France.

Mr Netanyahu lashed out at the allegations made against him, which he claimed had been "punctured" after Judge Amnon Strashnov claimed to have had no verbal contact with the Prime Minister since early 1997. According to Manbar's defence lawyers, Mr Netanyahu contacted the judge during last month's trial in an effort to secure a conviction.

The allegations are based mainly on an affidavit by the former boyfriend of the dismissed junior defence attorney, Primat Yane, 26, a lawyer who has been depicted as a *femme fatale*, apparently enjoying sexual affairs at the same time with Judge Strashnov, with whom she had been a legal trainee; the Israeli security agent investigating the case; and the Prime Minister's press spokesman, Shai Bazak.

Israel radio said that Mr Bazak looked in sombre mood yesterday as Mr Netanyahu

attacked his left-wing political opponents for what he claimed were further allegations against him that had been disproved. Earlier, it had been reported that Mr Bazak had been taken to hospital with chest pains, and later released.

In passing sentence, the three-strong panel led by Judge Strashnov, 52, said that Manbar's crime was among the worst security offences in the annals of Israeli criminal history. "How did the accused plunge to the lowest depths by selling raw materials for chemical warfare and the knowledge and equipment for the manufacture of nerve gas to a clear enemy state such as Iran?" the judges asked.

Mrs Manbar, who was reported to have sold an \$800,000 (£487,000) villa in Lugano to help to pay for her husband's defence costs, called the court's decision "a very, very big error". She said that the trial was not honest.

She implied that her husband was being used as the scapegoat to cover up Israeli sales to Iran that violated an American arms embargo on the Tehran regime. "I ask myself why my husband was the only one accused," she said. "Israel was not selling only hummus and pitta bread to Iran."

Oded Granot, a leading Israeli journalist, queried why Manbar was not arrested in 1995 when the scope of his Iranian connections became known, and what happened between July 1992, when he was first warned by Shin Bet, Israel's equivalent of MI5, that he had to cease his activities with Iran in the field of chemical weaponry, and November 1993, when he was warned for a second time.



Manbar listens to the sentence yesterday

UN gives Israel black mark in rights report

Geneva: Israel's sweeping use of emergency powers, the legitimised use of torture by security forces and discrimination between Jews and Arabs allowed under the law, were severely criticised yesterday in the country's first human rights audit by the United Nations (Peter Capella writes).

In preliminary comments at the end of a cross-examina-

tion of Israeli officials, members of the UN Human Rights Committee said Israel was clearly violating key parts of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which it ratified in 1991.

Christine Shanet, head of the team of 18 legal experts, condemned the use of torture by security forces, allowed by Israeli courts to prevent terrorist attacks.

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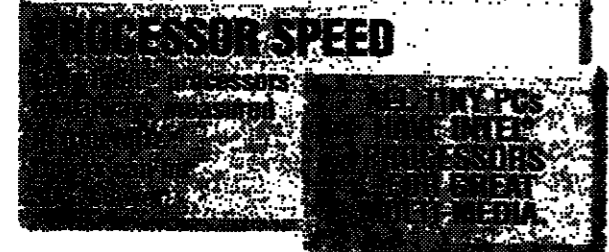
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Mbeki struggles to match Mandela's act

Birthday jamboree ushers in new era

FROM R.W. JOHNSON IN JOHANNESBURG

NELSON MANDELA'S 80th birthday is being celebrated on a huge scale in South Africa this weekend with tributes throughout the day on television and radio shows, special newspaper supplements, an official party and all manner of special competitions and events.

Most South Africans see Mr Mandela as an extraordinary, heroic and charismatic figure. In a country not blessed with far-sighted leadership, there is a deep consciousness that it has at last produced a figure greater than Jan Smuts, and perhaps even the equal of Cecil Rhodes in the part he has played in shaping this country-in-the-making.

At the same time the celebrations are a way of saying goodbye. No one doubts that Mr Mandela will enjoy an unequalled moral authority in South Africa while he lives, but he has been replaced as president of the African National Congress by Thabo Mbeki and will surrender the presidency of the country next April. In the eyes of both South Africa and the world this will leave a tremendous gap and there is anxiety about what the age of Mr Mbeki may bring. Mr Mandela's retirement will leave Mr Mbeki in an easier situation than the one he now enjoys. There is even a chance that the Government will become more coherent and focused.

First, and most obviously, Mr Mbeki has been running the country for some years already. Almost from the start he took the chair at Cabinet meetings and has been extremely visible for some time, now that all political roads lead to and from the Deputy President's office.

Secondly, Mr Mandela's great contribution lay in leading the anti-apartheid struggle and in exemplifying the spirit of reconciliation when it was won. These were, and are, giant contributions, but there is no point in pretending that Mr Mandela was particularly well suited to the tasks of government and administration when he took over as president in 1994.

Mr Mbeki has had most of the real power and in effect the responsibility for government, yet he has not enjoyed the presidential title or authority. Moreover, Mr Mandela has in important respects resembled the ageing Charles de Gaulle: while normally preoccupied with lofty matters of protocol and principle, he will

from time to time sally forth unpredictably into the political arena when his attention is really engaged. This was what happened when, during the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference in New Zealand, the execution of Ken Saro-Wiwa saw an outraged Mr Mandela remake foreign policy on the spot - leaving Mr Mbeki to pick up the pieces of the crucial relationship with Nigeria.

Similarly, the violence in Richmond in KwaZulu-Natal has seen Mr Mandela rush in to declare - without much real evidence - that the police are culpable for 20 deaths and that the ANC will not participate in the all-party talks that most observers believe are the key to peace. This must have been fairly disconcerting to Mr Mbeki who, in the interests of reconciliation with Inkatha, has already promised to attend its congress in Ulundi this weekend.

Mr Mbeki's problem is that Mr Mandela is an impossible act to follow, particularly since Mr Mbeki is singularly lacking in charisma and has not

‘Mbeki, lacking charisma, has not developed a base’

even managed to develop a 'favourite son' base in his native Eastern Cape, where his opponent, Bantu Holomisa, seems to have overtaken him. To a degree that is seldom appreciated, Mr Mbeki will be running the ANC's 1999 election campaign essentially against Mr Mandela, desperately seeking to win a mandate of his own which will give him the authority he now lacks and so badly needs.

The ANC's ambition to obtain a two-thirds majority in 1999 has panicked liberal democrats who spy a single-party state not far down the road. But the fact is that the ANC won 62.7 per cent of the vote in 1994, and if it wins less in 1999 Mr Mbeki will appear to lack legitimacy and authority. Hence the need to win even bigger next time, at last giving Mr Mbeki a claim to authority that he currently lacks.

For the moment, such concerns are lost in the celebrations of a much-loved old man's birthday. Once the party's over, however, the real accounting will begin.

□ **Skukuza:** Mr Mandela, who becomes an octogenarian tomorrow, kicked off his birthday celebrations, hosting a party in the Kruger game reserve for 1,000 orphans. He cut a huge cake, in the shape of his trade-mark colourful casual shirts. (Reuters)



President Mandela cuts a cake before a thousand orphans during his pre-birthday celebration at the Skukuza camp in Kruger National Park yesterday. Girls serenaded the President with the words: "You're so special"

Secrecy muffles talk of wedding bells

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN JOHANNESBURG

SPECULATION intensified last night that President Mandela was planning to mark his birthday this weekend by marrying his partner, Graca Machel.

A front-page story in yesterday's *Johannesburg Star* headlined "Madiba's wedding bells" reported that sources had disclosed that the ceremony would take place in private tomorrow at Mr Mandela's home. The report claimed Johannesburg's chief magistrate, Charlton Bastie, had been asked to officiate at the ceremony.

Parik Mankahlana, the President's spokesman, denied knowledge of plans for a wedding. But the newspaper said the Department of Home Affairs had been asked to arrange the formalities around Mrs Machel's status as a citizen of Mozambique.

Mr Mandela and Mrs Machel, 52, the widow of the former Mozambican President, Samora Machel, went

public about their relationship last year. The President has declared his willingness to tie the knot, indicating that resistance to formalising the relationship came from Mrs Machel's side. She admitted her reluctance to marry, but did not preclude the possibility. "It has all the elements of mutual respect for each other. He's so easy to love."



Machel says Mandela is so easy to love

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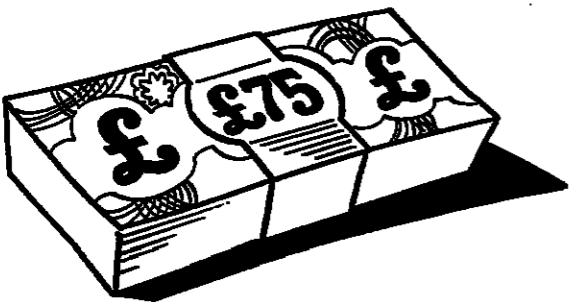
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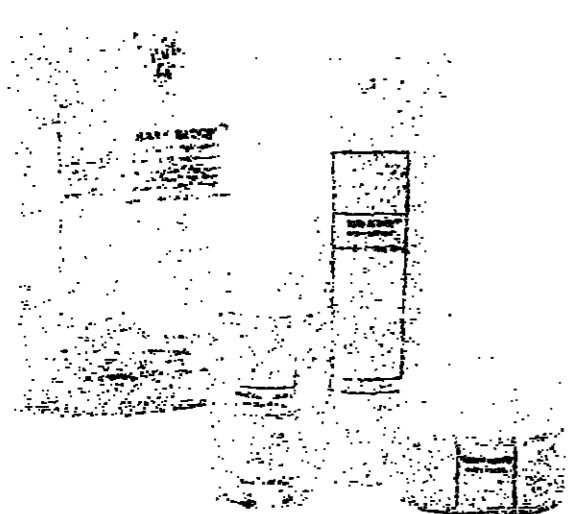
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Do you know who I am?

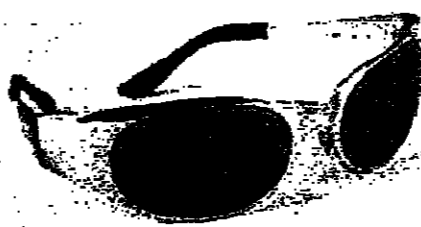


Dark thoughts: sunglasses send a message — and it's not "lovely weather for the time of year, isn't it?"

SIX OF THE BEST

Shades provide a high cool factor as well as sun protection.

RECTANGULAR TORTOISESHELL, £109
These rectangular frames are the Nineties take on the rounded Jackie O look. Seriously stylish. *Cutler & Gross, 16 Knightsbridge Green, SW1. (0171-581 2250) 10/10*



SLIM RECTANGULAR TORTOISESHELL, £89
A svelte shape which still provides good sun protection. These suit most faces and are so lightweight you forget you are wearing them. *Gucci (01423-538 005) 10/10*

METAL MIRRORING SPORTS GLASSES, £195
Superclassy, shiny silver metal frames with dark lenses. The wrap-around shape and metallic look are urban New York but the metal frame doesn't mould well to the face. *Dolce & Gabbana by Marcolin. (01635-529 997) 7/10*



OLIVE GREEN SPORTS GLASSES, £65
These are coated in a soft, rubberlike film which stops friction. The lightweight frame curves around the face and is excellent for sport. *Ralph Lauren Polo Sport (01423-538 005) 9/10*

GREEN METAL FRAME, £109
The thin metal frame makes these lightweight and pressure-free, and the metallic green is great for those rebelling against the ubiquitous black or tortoiseshell. *Gianfranco Ferré Jeans (01423-538 005) 9/10*



COMPILED BY DEBORAH BRETT

BLACK GRADUATED LENSES, £225
A heavy rectangular frame with original Sixties silver and black slides, these can be worn with a graduated tint, full tint or optical lenses. The price is hot but only 150 have been made. *Kirk Originals, 36 Earham Street, WC2. (0171-240 5055) 8/10*

HOT TIP

This is not the best of summers for acquiring a tan but, with a little subterfuge, it is still possible. Apply Tan Maximizer from Lancaster after sunbathing and it can increase your tan by up to 50 per cent. Working with your skin's own tanning ability, it deepens colour and helps to repair sun-damaged cells with natural enzymes called holosomes. £19, at selected department stores nationwide.

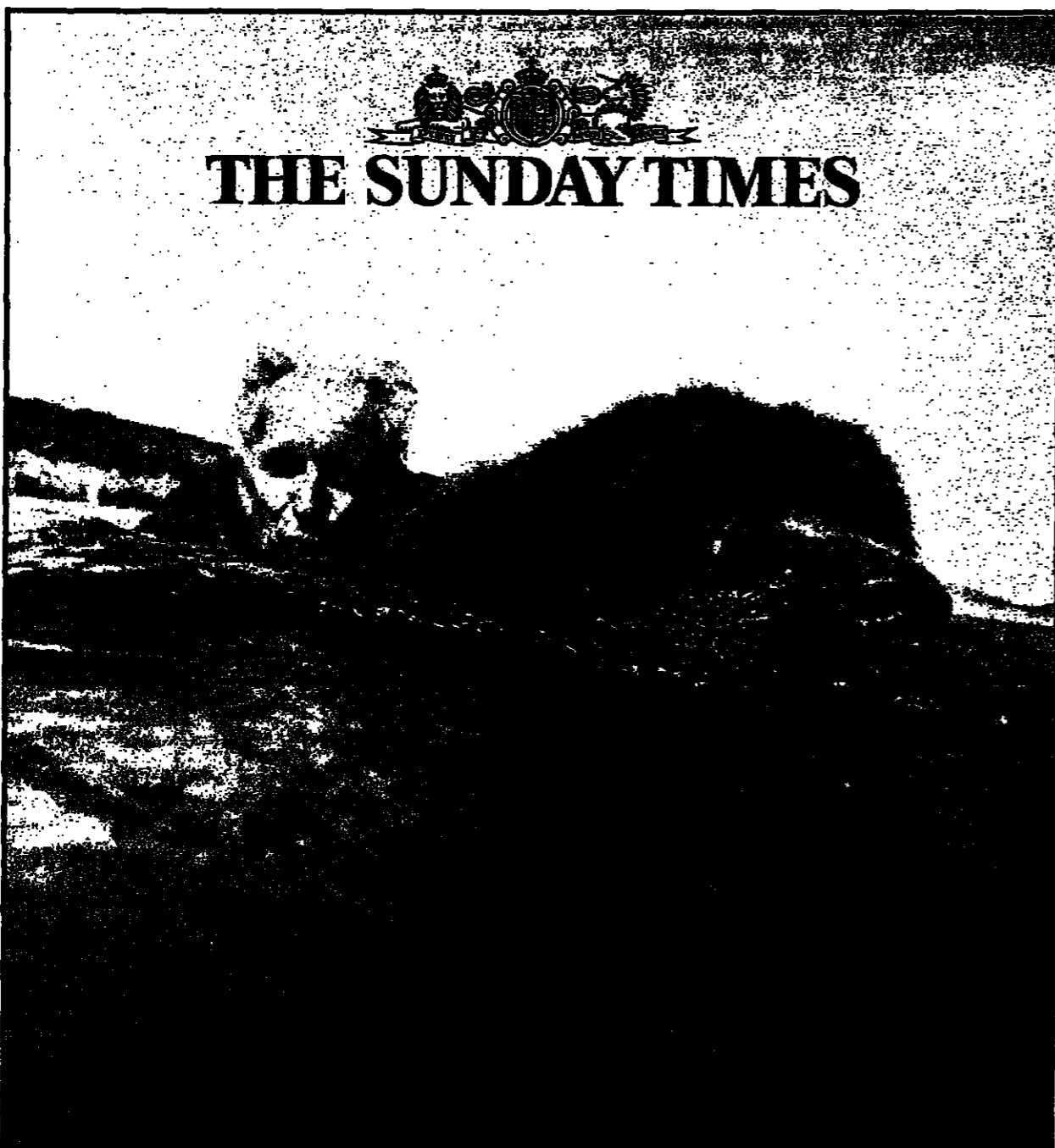
CUTTING EDGE

Everyone knows that sunglasses and sunshine have absolutely nothing to do with each other. Did Greta Garbo dispense with hers whenever it came over a bit cloudy? I think not. The thing about shades is that they send a message, and that message is not "lovely weather for the time of year, isn't it?" Consider for a moment the people who never go out without their dark glasses. Does anyone have the faintest idea what Karl Lagerfeld looks like without his? Anna Wintour wears hers throughout every catwalk show — Lagerfeld's included. No chance of telling by the flicker of an eyelid what she thinks of his latest collection. Isabelle Adjani wore ink-black shades to watch a zillion movies during her stint as president of the Cannes Film Festival. She even kept them on for the Cannes jury's team photograph. "Conjunctivitis," explained her publicist. A likely story. And then there is Magenta DeVine, who has contrived to build an entire career around a pair of sunglasses. And what these people are saying, with their designer absence of eye contact, is: "Don't you realise who I am?"

The fact is, of course, that you do. Or if you don't, you feel you jolly well ought to. It's a trick that every wannabee starlet and pretty shoppah has picked up, but the beauty of it is, it keeps on working. Off day? Hideous hangover? A swipe of lip gloss and a pair of shades will soon sort that out. Indeed, I once knew a girl so in thrall to her dark glasses that she wore two pairs at once: one on her nose to look through, and another perched on top of her head, in case of emergencies, presumably. A morning's people-watching on the streets of London reveals that the pushed-up-on-your-head look is big among the pretty nymphets of the King's Road. In Knightsbridge, crackle-glassed Ladies who Lunch wear Versace tortoiseshell frames with a gilt Medusa's head logo, and in Bond Street, saggy-bottomed American tourists wear aviator shades, and designer-clad Japanese girls retreat behind impenetrable D&G goggles. The thing about sunglasses is that their effect on the face is dramatic. Upswept frames can make one girl look as alluring as a Siamese kitten, and another simply spiteful. Jackie O goggles can lend an air of grief-stricken mystery —

or simply make you look like a kind of enormous ant. This year, it's the Jackie O goggles that have the upper hand, along with tiny angular shades with lenses in strange, by unflattering tints (pink, yellow) as worn by Liam Gallagher and his avatar, Nicky Haslam. If you look awful in both shapes, you will just have to grit your teeth and choose between looking dowdy or plain. If you favour the narrow-eyed look, Benson & Ashley at Fenwick has a version with black plastic frames and turquoise lenses reduced from £50 to £24.95. Dolce & Gabbana has green lenses with gold frames, or grey with pewter, £195. On the high street, Marks & Spencer does a very good small oval pair in brushed silver metal and opaque plastic with blue lenses, £16 (also in gold with bronze lenses) and a gentler, oval steel-rimmed pair for £16 (despite the huge discrepancy in price, almost all high street sunglasses these days boast some level of UVA protection. It is worth reading the label). At Oasis, rectangular pink lenses in pink metal frames are £12.99, and ruby rectangle frames with blue lenses are £11.99. Next has Nicky Haslam-style yellow lenses for £9.99, and at Superdrug, narrow black shades with pierced metal arms are £8.99. The trouble with these minimalist lenses, however, is that they do not exactly lend an air of mystery. Far too much of your face remains on show. If glamour is what you're after, you'd better stick to goggles. Oasis has a particularly pretty pair of lilac frames with navy lenses, £9.99. Calvin Klein does a lovely retro pair with translucent almond-green frames and sea-green lenses, and Cutler & Gross a striking Op-Art, £57 black and white-checkered frame with blue lenses, £165. At Fenwick, Fabris Lane's Cruella de Vil, cats-eye black frames are £19.95, and foxy triangular frames in ruby red with black lenses by Guess? are £39.95. Dolce & Gabbana does an unusual pair of gently rounded clear topaz frames with a white streak and bronze lenses, £129. But for Holly Golightly with a really bad attack of the mean reds, the best remedy is probably Dior's leopardskin frames with lenses of soothing jungle green, £129.

THE SUNDAY TIMES



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Global man can't do without God

Christianity is a match for the market, says Daniel Johnson

Globalisation is an ugly new word for an alarming idea. Much has been written about the economic reality that it denotes and with which we must live; rather less about the consequences for our culture, which are ultimately more important. We learnt this week that a new McDonald's opens somewhere in the world every 15 minutes. Is this integrating, homogenising, levelling force, which sweeps all before it, a cultural catastrophe or not? And is globalisation the triumph of Western civilisation, or its demise? One can be a pessimist or an optimist; most of us are deeply ambivalent. Both responses are encapsulated in two recent books.

First the pessimist, John Gray, formerly an Oxford don, now Professor of European Thought at the London School of Economics, came to write *False Dawn: The Delusions of Global Capitalism* (Granta) as a result of his disillusionment with Thatcherism. He has transferred his enthusiasm to Asian models of capitalism, particularly the Japanese. (*False Dawn* was evidently written before the Asian crisis.)

Professor Gray treats the technological transformation of the world as both an ineluctable fate and as the road to serfdom. It "has resulted in the emancipation of market forces from social and political control. By allowing that freedom to world markets we ensure that the age of globalisation will be remembered as another turn in the history of servitude."

Won't we choose to serve Mammon Inc rather than God?

Back in the Thirties, this argument was fought out between Friedrich von Hayek, who thought the Depression would be cured by the market, and John Maynard Keynes, who thought the survival of Western democracy required state intervention. For half a century, Keynes appeared to have won; then, in the 1980s, the heirs of Hayek regained the initiative. Professor Gray's own pilgrimage began as a Hayek scholar; after his conversion from laissez faire, he now recalls Keynes, but in a minor key.

We are, the professor intones *ex cathedra* (and not without a grim relish), entering "an era of Occidental twilight." From Malthus to Marx, the Cassandras of capitalism are a permanent feature of the intellectual landscape. In 1918, Oswald Spengler spooked a war-weary Europe with *The Decline of the West*. Gray goes further, claiming that "the very idea of the West may already be archaic." Globalisation, he thinks, does not lead to a universal civilisation, but rather to its shipwreck.

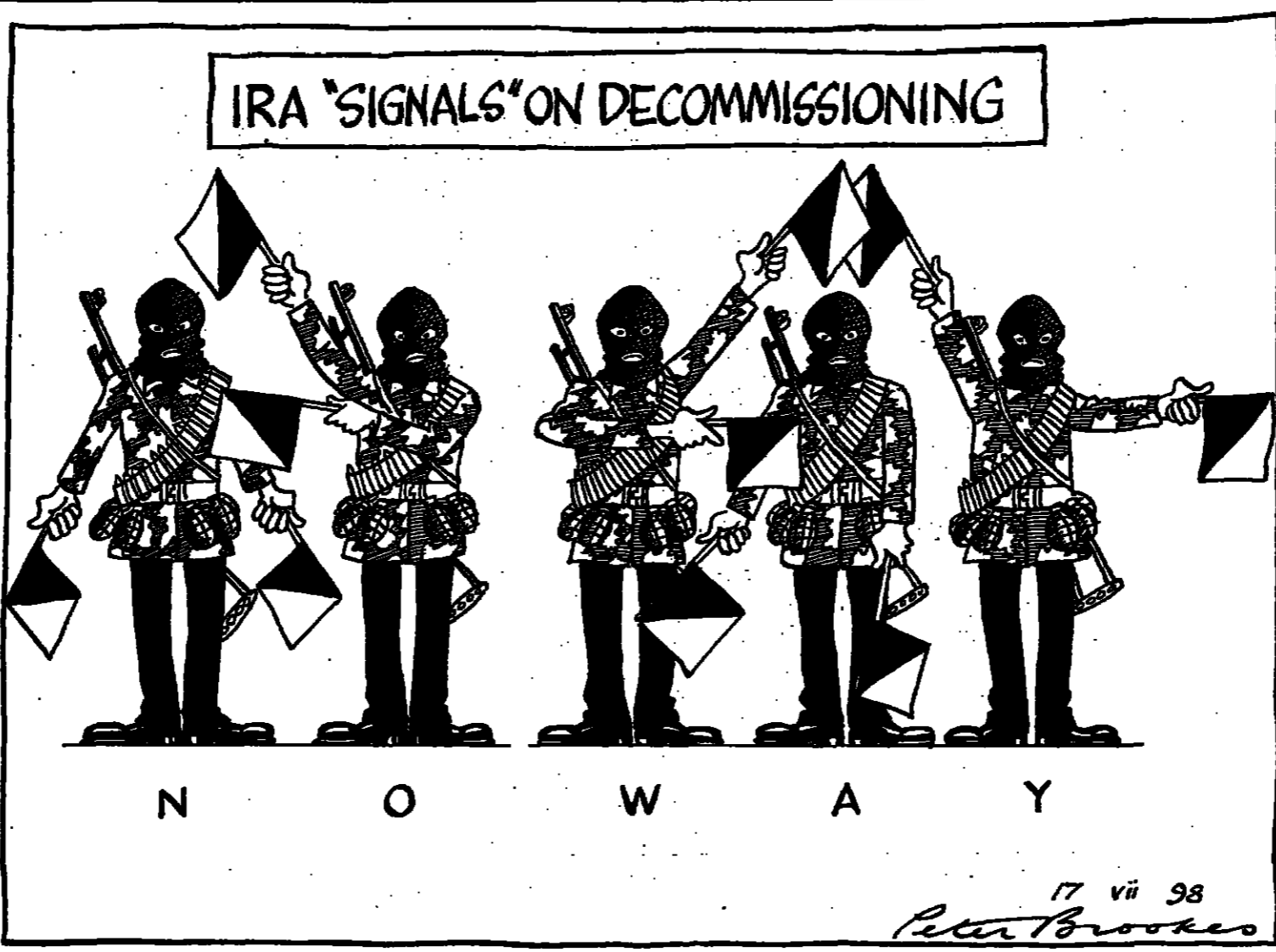
Well, apocalyptic pathos is good for sales. But is the West merely the embodiment of modernity, as the professional pessimist presumes? In that case, it may indeed be done for. If, however, the West is a com-

plex cultural inheritance, based on Judeo-Christian and classical foundations, then why should globalisation be its *Götterdämmerung*? Enter Nicholas Boyle: Cambridge don, author of the best biography of Goethe in any language, now emerging from the cloister with a Christian tract for our times in the best tradition of Newman, Chesterton or T.S. Eliot. In *Who Are We Now? Christian Humanism and the Global Market* (T&T Clark), Dr Boyle analyses the revolutionary impact of globalisation, and he devotes several essays to explaining how we got here — as invisibly erudite a brief intellectual history of the West as I have ever read.

For Dr Boyle, the challenge of the market is an exhilarating one. In the face of the dissolution of all traditions, the obsolescence of the nation state, the atomisation of humanity, the end of the bourgeois age, Christianity alone, the refuge of the dispossessed, is compatible with a new global civilisation. The bold Dr Boyle believes that globalisation can be claimed for the universal Catholic Church, the oldest and most resilient global organisation of all, which alone is capable of conferring a new identity on all these lost sheep.

Dr Boyle may be a Roman Catholic, but his notion of Christianity embraces the heretical and the heretic: indeed, the global epoch will, he says, heal the wounds of the Reformation. As a man of letters, Dr Boyle finds his faith at its most powerful in literary form. "In the age of the global market, only a Christian literature can show us — realistically — who we are."

Who are we now? Citizens of the world — and of Christendom. You can say grace even in McDonald's.



Farewell, Jerusalem

Two faces, and such different faces. Tony Blair is like a winter's day on East Falkland — pale sun, chasing sleet, chasing showers: changeable and restless. Gordon Brown is a set, leaden sky: still, heavy, and unrelenting. The faces were side by side last Tuesday for a Commons statement on the Comprehensive Spending Review.

Mr Brown did all the talking. Mr Blair, who was silent, did the communicating. If I read the Prime Minister correctly, then something is not right with him.

One of the more likeable aspects of this strange and elusive man is a fundamental honesty. He is tricky as any Prime Minister, of course, but he rarely succeeds in deceiving. Mr Blair is a dire actor. He seems physically incapable of hiding his feelings. A student of the Hiding school, he has to get under the skin of the character he portrays — to feel, and breathe, and be that person for half an hour, half a Parliament, or half a lifetime.

Then he can be astonishingly convincing — because he has convinced himself. In tele-evangelist mode, on conference platforms with the media agog and the crowd cheering, when he is high on the politics of ecstasy, when he has snorted another line of New Britain, New Politics, this man's performance electrifies. He believes, so we believe.

But when he does not believe, it shows. Even the quality of his skin and hair, so often the tell-tale of emotional state, tells me Blair is now torn. In journalism we can wait until something has become fairly obvious to most intelligent readers, and then set it out clearly. This can be useful: it confirms and amplifies, and can be backed by evidence and explanation.

Or we can take a flyer: share a hunch and risk coming a cropper. I shall take the flyer. It's very early days, but I think Mr Blair is losing the plot. Icharus has flown too close to the Sun, and the wax is melting.

Recent weeks have been a watershed for my own judgment of this administration's prospects. I think they have turned. By "turned," I do not mean turned towards early failure. The road ahead looks comfortable for a while; it may lead to another elec-

tion victory; it will have all kinds of compensations and it will not be a disaster for Britain. But it is the old road, the road back. Back from the New Politics; from consensus; from coalition; from electoral reform; from the greening of Britain; from the politics of innocence; from the welfare revolution; from a transformed and leading role in Europe. Normal service is being resumed. There was one face missing on the front bench for that statement on Tuesday: John Prescott. For the Deputy Prime Minister, this month has been a triumph of unimagined proportions.

For a year now, ministers at the dispatch box, tormented by impatient backbenchers, have reminded them that, however long the journey, "it is the first steps which are important." That is true in more ways than ministers know. This month, the Cabinet took the first steps off the road to New Britain. No wonder Mr Prescott didn't come. Even that old bulldog-face from Hull would have been unable to hide his glee.

Summer is about to intervene, and when we return to real politics this October, 1999 will be just around the corner: the year which takes us into the steepening downward slope towards the next general election. The Comprehensive Spending Review, about whose generosity we have heard so much this week, will have turned out to provide just enough for public services to keep their heads above water, yielding marginal advances in education but enabling the National Health Service to do little more than keep pace. Nothing will have been "transformed" and all the old grumbles will still be there.

It is pure fantasy to suppose that in those staid, faintly disappointed circumstances, any of the projects which are dear to Mr Blair's heart — the things which set him above his party

and mark him as some kind of visionary — will be realisable. The drawing-together with Paddy Ashdown will have been stalled by muttering voices in both Houses and parties. The referendum on electoral reform will be enormously contentious. You had only to listen to Home Office Questions this week to get the measure of the backlash Jack Straw could lead. Scottish devolution, Mr Blair's bravest act, will be judged to augur ill for further constitutional change. Welsh devolution will be a sad mess. Some of this was inevitable. But the demise of the "welfare revolution" was not Mr Blair's fault.

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school kid with a difficult boyhood, a strong moral streak, an ambition to be somebody, a talent for scheming, an ache to attach himself to something, and a sudden emotional attachment to the religion and politics of hope and brotherhood... all those confused dreams of the mixed-up kid who has become our Prime Minister — how are they faring? What is becoming of them, and of him?

Well, he did become Prime Minister. He did become almost the most popular guy in the world. But the other dreams are fading, and for this leader that matters terribly because Mr Blair's leadership is hype-driven to a nerve-racking degree. He has lived by hype; hype fixes the feathers to his wings, and, for as long as he stays airborne on hype he can amaze and impress. But what if the spell breaks?

The praetorian guard around Mr Blair begins to look rather vulnerable: a couple of them trip and he realises he is hard-put to save them. Suddenly we start looking at his Cabinet equals — and for the first time it is possible to see them as equals. We see that Mr Brown is really rather solid. On Tuesday he told us that, beyond signing the cheques, he'll be vetting the management plans. Managing director, then? Who does that leave as non-executive chairman?

We look at Mr Straw as a Cabinet heavyweight now — decent fellow; seems to have got a grip. We reassess Mr Prescott, for the man is winning battles and Mr Blair now needs him as much as he needs Mr Blair. We mull over the coming reshuffle and reflect on how nervous Mr Blair needs to be about sending enemies outside his tent. As the candles, sheets and mirrors come down and the magic fades, Britain awakes to the realisation that this is just another Labour Government. And not a bad one either, all things considered. But it isn't the New Jerusalem. Tony Blair was Jerusalem-bound or he was nothing. Is Jerusalem on the itinerary any more? And, if it isn't...

Sitting on the front bench on Tuesday, the Prime Minister looked (and I believe felt) an intimation of, if not mortality, peripherality.

Blair's features tell a tale: it will never be glad confident morning again

Blair's features tell a tale: it will never be glad confident morning again



Blair's features tell a tale: it will never be glad confident morning again

Hunted man

SIR IAN HEATHCOAT AMORY, a senior figure in the National Trust, has been treated in a beastly way by toffs after he supported the trust's ban on deanting. The landowner, cousin of David Heathcoat-Amory, the Shadow Chief Secretary to the Treasury, has been verbally abused and left off invitation lists for dinner parties and shoots. Sir Ian is a member of the National Trust Council, which voted unanimously to block deanting from its land after receiving a scientific report that the sport was cruel. Britain's three stag hunts are near his West Country home.

"The result of the ban was a bombshell," admits Sir Ian, who has since had to do penance with local red coats. "People thought 'Damn it. He ought to have been on our side.' They said to me they had thought they were safe with me as a trustee and asked 'How could you do this?'" An early sign of disapproval came from Lord Courtenay. Sir Ian says: "I shot with him for years and years. I did not shoot with him last year. I was not invited. I'm sure that was in the heat of the moment. They were cross I hadn't been more robust on behalf of country sports."

Another upset by Sir Ian has been George Lopes, brother of Lord Roberough. "What I and a lot



of people are saying is he could have voted or spoken against the ban," he says. "I don't think it right that those who did not speak out should stand around with a gun in their hands."

Sir Ian, whose family mills made the Queen's wedding veil, is a decent sort, now trying to rebuild old friendships. His aunt, Lady H A, the former golfer Joyce Wethered, donated her pad to the trust. I wish him neighbourly peace.

● POOR Sir John Birt. So delighted was he with his knighthood that he quickly took to signing letters

come attention, including invitations to appear on television with a Mr Terence Wogan. As for her early life as an art restorer for Nottingham City Council, "I was persuading vicars and stately home-owners to give us their heirlooms for studying," says Dame Stella, played by Dame Judi Dench (below) in Bond films. "That's where I developed the powers of persuasion that I later used to convince people to put their lives on the line for their country."

● THE Archbishop of York is again being disturbed by sodomy. George Austin is furious with the editor of his own diocese journal for running advertisements for something called the Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement. He has now written to say: "I have the right not to read a journal which will be

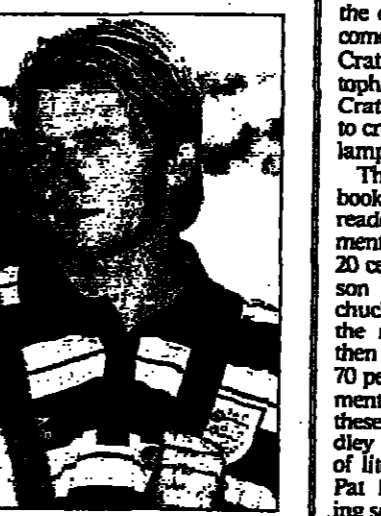
promoting sodomy as an acceptable Christian lifestyle." Compulsory cold showers in the vestry, I fear.

Wrong brand THE backlash against "Cool Britannia" continues — this time from the American edition of GQ. Next month's issue is dedicated to sending up Britain. In a pathetic attempt at shock-journalism, the Queen is pictured sporting a Union Jack G-string. Tony Blair is satirised desperately trying to revive Britain by aping the United States, rebranding us as the "United States of Britain". Most ridiculously, the Queen "runs off" with Mohamed Al Fayed. The magazine then chooses to make fun of the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, in a manner that I have no intention of repeating. Nicholas Coleridge, head of the rag's UK operation, pleads ignorance. "It is meant to be jolky." To the Tower.

had arrived. Organising lunch for the club he founded to annoy the Government, he received a call from his researcher. The PM had phoned to say he wanted to deliver a speech to the free-thinking MPs, dubbed the Old Testament Prophecy, and could M-A provide a car? At his office, the MP was also told by his secretary that "a man named Brown had asked if he could talk to the group". But when M-A played back his phone messages he realised two were wind-ups from Brian Sedgmore, his fellow troublemaker. "He has a distinctive accent," says the MP. "Even when holding his nose."

● A COMPUTER message doing the rounds of City banks contains the e-mail address of Kim Milton Nielson, the referee who sent off David Beckham (right). It urges fans to convey their appreciation. I deplore such jingoism. By the way his e-mail is kinn@datalog.dk

Phoney calls THAT mischievous Labour MP Bob Marshall-Andrews thought he



JASPER GERARD

Philip Howard



We sit on the shoulders of antiquity

Contrary to the view of grumpy old men, the world is not going to the dogs. Most days in most ways, things are getting better and better. Even our dreary and un-sporting professional cricketers would wallop a side led by Grace, Bradman, Hutton, Lindwall and Miller. They would shock those heroes by their sledging and other cheating. Our overpaid and morose footballers would thrash a team that included Stanley Matthews, Dixie Dean and other heroes of antiquity. Even politicians are not much worse than they have always been since cronies, sleaze, vanity and pomposity were pioneered in the agora and forum. My work "shadows" are far more sensible and know much more than I did at their age.

Of course, not everything in our garden is lovely. The London Underground is no longer a disgrace, but a joke. On the pious ground that there are no bad soldiers, only bad officers, a member of the senior Tube management should be sacked every day until at least they managed to co-ordinate their apologies for suspect packages. Publishing is now run by computers in suits, not by human beings who read books. Ved Mehta, the delicately innumerate blind writer, cannot find a British publisher for the latest volume of his memoirs. His sensitive words may never top the bestseller list or earn grotesque celebrity advances for trash. But they are enchanting thousands of Americans, who make better books than our idiots. Alas, too, for public gullibility. It has increased as faith and respect for authority have declined. Modern frauds such as most alternative medicine, the National Lottery, the Diana cult and "Cool Britannia" are even sillier than the witchcraft and comen of the past.

But scholarship steadily improves, because it stands upon the shoulders of past scholars. We may seem to have no giants such as Fraenkel, Porson or Jowett, who knew everything: "What I don't know isn't knowledge." But I dare say that time magnifies their reputations. And you can see how one of the fronts of their scholarship is advancing by visiting the Wren Library at Trinity College, Cambridge next week. If it is still raining, you can shelter and take tea (or something stronger, in memory of Porson) under its beautiful arcades. And in the library you can marvel at a fragment showing how modern scholarship builds on Porson's work. It is a small roll of papyrus. On it is a beautiful, slightly sloping calligraphy in Greek. A chorus is singing that the wives of the men in the audience will bear children at will, any number, boys and girls alike, and after pregnancies of five months, three months or one. They (the boys of course: the girls are forgotten) will be youths in a fortnight, grow beards in another fortnight, "and they'll be screwing women in a fortnight more."

This is a fragment of one of the first comedies ever written, the remotest ancestor of *Last of the Summer Wine* — a large format, lavish margins and scholarly annotation suggest a play by major dramatist such as Aristophanes. The best bet is that it may be the chorus of satyrs in the lost comedy *Dionysalexandros* by Cratinus, the rival of Aristophanes. Aristotle judged that Cratinus was the first comedian to create plots rather than write lampoons of individuals. This coffee-table roll sat in the book-room of a household of readers in the Egyptian settlement of el-Bahnasa more than 20 centuries ago. For some reason the papyrus roll was chucked away, ended up in the rubbish dump of a town then called Oxyrhynchus. About 70 per cent of our papyrus fragments come from there. From these, scholars such as Eric Handley are recovering mountains of literature. And scholars like Pat Easterling are reinterpreting seminal works of the theatre more subtly even than great textual critics such as Porson. Next week all the British societies devoted to the study of Greek and Latin will gather in Cambridge for their triennial conference. Scholars from all over the world are coming for this feast of new-old learning, which will contain sideplates and tables unknown to Aristotle or even Jowett. Similar "advances are continually being made" in newer disciplines than classic literature, particularly the sciences. Complains, if you must, that the weather has gone to the dogs. But the gradual ascent of man continues.

هكذا من الأصل



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE July 16: The Duke of Edinburgh, Colonel-in-Chief, this evening attended the Annual Intelligence Corps Officers Dinner at the Headquarters of the Defence Intelligence and Security Centre, Chicksands, Bedfordshire.

Memorial service

Mr Wolf Mankowitz A service of thanksgiving for the life and work of Mr Wolf Mankowitz, author, scriptwriter, academic and impresario, was held yesterday at the West London Synagogue, Upper Berkeley Street, London W1. Rabbi Guy Hall officiated.

The London Institute

At Westminster Central Hall on Wednesday and Thursday July 15 and 16, the London Institute conferred academic awards on 1,800 successful students from its constituent colleges - Camberwell College of Arts, Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design, London College of Art and Design, London College of Fashion, London College of Printing. The awards were conferred by Mr Julian E. Markham, Chairman of the Institute's Court of Governors.

Breakfast

Asian Business Breakfast Club Mr Tim McVittie-Ross, Director General of the Institute of Directors, was guest of honour at the Asian Business Breakfast Club's meeting held at the House of Commons on Wednesday, by courtesy of Mr Tony Baldry, MP, who welcomed the guests.

Luncheons

Plumbers' Company The Lord Mayor, accompanied by Mr Alderman and Sheriff David Howard, presented the Plumbers' Company's inaugural award to the Royal Air Force to Junior Technician D.A. O'Connor of RAF Leeming and the Lead Sheet Association's trophy to Mr T. Atkins of Oxford College of Further Education, in recognition of their contribution to demonstrations at the Weald and Downland Museum.



Liz Bradshaw, from Loughborough College of Art and Design, with her lamp made from staples, which is on show at the New Designers Exhibition at the Business Design Centre, Islington, North London, until Sunday. The exhibition, sponsored by The Times, BT, Creative Publishing and Vanity Fair, includes contemporary designs from 2,000 of Britain's most talented graduating design students

The Royal Academy of Engineering

The 22nd annual general meeting of The Royal Academy of Engineering was held in London on Wednesday July 15, 1998, under the Chairmanship of the President, Sir David Davies, CBE, FEng, FRS. The Academy elected the following Fellows: Mr David A. Bell, Professor Leslie W Barclay, Professor Peter A. Bristow, Professor Andrew Blake, Mr Adam A. Bondar, Professor Derek Broadbent, Professor Richard C. Brooks, Professor Clifford R. Burrows, Professor Isaza Canan, Professor Keith J. Carpenter, Dr Nicholas J. Cook, Mr Gerald H. David, OBE, Dr David G. Doolan, Professor Peter A. Doolan, Mr David G. Doolan, Mr Colin H. Green, Mr Peter M. Grattan, OBE, Dr Patrick H. Green, Professor Richard G. H. Jones, Professor John A. Jones, Professor Michael J. Kelly, FRS, Mr Jeffrey Masson, Mr Terence Matthews, OBE, Professor David M. McKeown, Professor David M. Mearns, Mr William O'Riordan, Dr Robert J. Paine, Mr John H. Robinson, Mr Philip Rogers, OBE, Professor Richard G. S. Smith, Dr Bruce G. Smith, OBE, Professor Martin Smith, Mr Richard O. Small, Mr Michael A. Spencer, Rear Admiral Professor David J. Stanger, FRS, Professor Alan J. Stanger, FRS, Sir Robert Wainwright, CBE, Dr Peter Watson, OBE, Mr Christopher Woodcock, OBE.

Anniversaries today

BIRTHS: Andrea del Sarto, painter, Florence, 1486; Charles Leslie, controversialist, Dublin, 1650; Isaac Watts, hymn writer, Southampton, 1674; John Jacob Astor, fur trader, Waldorf, Germany, 1763; Paul Delarocche, painter, Paris, 1797; Martin Tupper, poet, Marylebone, 1810; Shmuel Agnon, novelist, Nobel laureate 1906, Buczacz, Galicia (now Poland), 1888; Earl Stanley Gardner, detective story writer, Malden, Massachusetts, 1899; James Cagney, actor, New York, 1899; Christina Ellen South, novelist, Sydney, New South Wales, 1902.

Dinners

United & Cecil Club Sir Sydney Chapman, MP, was the host at a United & Cecil Club dinner held last night at the House of Commons. Sir Marcus Fox, chairman, presided. Viscount Courtenay and Mr Jeffrey Boswell also spoke.

Watermen's Company

The following have been installed officers of the Company of Watermen and Lightermen of the River Thames: Master, Mr C.J. Livett; Senior Wardens, Mr J.G. Johnson; Junior Wardens, Mr L. C. Burton, Mr C.G. Newsom and Mr J.S. Allan.

Actuaries' Company

The Master of the Actuaries' Company has presented a cheque for Europe's most Charitable Fund to Ms Beth Falkingham on behalf of Charterhouse-in-Southwark.

Legal appointments

Judge Leo Charles, QC, will succeed Judge Brooks as Senior Circuit Judge at Snaresbrook Crown Court from August 3. Mrs Patricia Ann Dealey to be a Circuit Judge on the Midland and Oxford Circuit.

Marriages

Mr T.G. Graveney and Miss E.S. Munro The marriage took place yesterday at the Lanesborough Hotel, London W1, of Mr Timothy Graveney, son of Mr and Mrs Thomas Graveney, of Chesham, Gloucestershire, to Miss Emma Munro, elder daughter of Sir Alan and Lady Munro, of Chiswick, London. Miss Alison Cartwright presided. Mr Tim Howland was best man.

Latest wills

Dorothy Nancy Brown, Assistant Curator Sir John Soane's Museum 1945-84, of London SW7, left estate valued at £751,317 net. The late her published works and copyright to the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings plus letters in her estate to the above and the Soane Monuments Trust, the late her estate to the above and the Soane Monuments Trust, the late her estate to the above and the Soane Monuments Trust.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr P.J.C. Bishop and Miss S.C. Mariel The engagement is announced between Patrick, son of Mr and Mrs Derek Bishop, of Savannah, Georgia, and Sarah, youngest daughter of Major and Mrs Peter Mariel, of Richmond, North Yorkshire.

Royal engagements

The Prince of Wales, on behalf of the Queen, will hold an investiture at Buckingham Palace, at 11.00. The Duke of York will attend a dinner in aid of the York Millennium Mystery Plays in the Treasury House, York Minster, at 7.30. The Princess Royal will attend the closing ceremony of the Confederation of the Officers of the Reserve (CIOR) Congress at the Brighton Centre, at 11.30; and will open Phase II of the development of the Conquest Hospital at St Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex, at 1.30. Later, as president, Save the Children Fund, she will attend a reception at the Unique Golf Day, Puckrup Hall, Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire, at 7.30. The Duke of Kent will attend the Kent County Show, Detting, at 11.00.

C.H.R. Gee

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Rodney Gee will be held in St John's College Chapel, at noon, on Saturday, September 19.

University news

Cambridge The 1998 Pilkington Teaching Prizes in recognition of excellence in teaching have been awarded to: Dr Michael Carpenter, Department of Earth Sciences; Dr David Carrington, Department of Biochemistry; Dr Andrew Cox, Department of Engineering; Dr David Keeler, Department of Chemistry; Dr Andy Orchard, Department of Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic; Dr Liba Taub, Department of History and Philosophy of Science.

Birthdays today

Sir Hardy Amies, dressmaker, 89; Baroness Anelay of St Johns, 51; Mr Richard Barker, former Headmaster, Sevenoaks School, 59; Mr Tim Brooke-Taylor, actor, 58; Sir Alan Cottrell, FRS, former Vice-Chancellor, Cambridge University, 70. Mr Raymond Galton, scriptwriter, 68; Baroness Gardner of Parkes, 71; Mr W. Gordon Graham, publisher, 78; Mr John Greetham, former regional chairman, NHS Executive, Northern Yorkshire Region, 59; Mr Eric Hammond, trade unionist, 66; Lord Hardy of Wath, 67; Mr J.M. Harper, former deputy managing director, BT, 68; Sir William Henderson, FRS, former President, Zoological Society of London, 85; Sir William Helyar, former Private Secretary to the Queen, 68; Lord Lane, 80; the Right Rev. D.R. Lum, former Bishop of Sheffield, 68; Mr Joe McNally, founding managing director, Compaq Computer UK, 56; Mrs Camilla Parker Bowles, 51; Lord Paton, 53; Dr Marjorie Reeves, FBA, historian, 93. The Marquis de Samaranch, president, International Olympic Committee, 78; Mr Peter Sissons, broadcaster, 56; Mr Wayne Sleep, dancer, actor and choreographer, 50; Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Blair Stewart-Wilson, former Deputy Master of the Household, 69; Sir Kenneth Stone, civil servant, 71; Mr Donald Sutherland, actor, 63; Mr Bob Taylor, former cricketer, 57; His Honour Sir David West-Russell, 77; Mr P.D.V. Wilkes, former Headmaster, Cheltenham College, 57; Mr Terrel Wyatt, former chairman, Costain Group, 71.

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BIRTHS WATERGATE - On July 11th 1998, to the wife of Mr and Mrs John and Mary, a son, Harry James, christened Harry James Watergate.

DEATHS BERT - Ruth aged 98, passed away peacefully on 14th July 1998 at Oaklands R.L., Watlington, Oxfordshire. Burial at St Peter's, Headingly on Friday 24th July 1998 at 2.30 pm. Family flowers only.

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هكذا من الأصل

OBITUARIES

SIR JOHN GREENBOROUGH

Sir John Greenborough, KBE, former oil executive and President of the Confederation of British Industry, died on July 3 aged 75. He was born on July 7, 1922.



Greenborough: a quiet but tough negotiator with considerable marketing expertise

As its managing director in the early 1970s, John Greenborough bore the chief responsibility for unscrambling Shell-Mex and BP, the vast marketing organisation which for the past 42 years had dominated the oil and petrol business in this country.

Greenborough had won the respect of trade union chiefs such as Hugh Scanlon and Jack Jones. Moreover, by the time he retired from the presidency two years later, his quiet but tough representation of industry's interests had encouraged even former political opponents, such as Lord Robens, to see his tenure of office as marking the "flowering" of the CBI as a national body.

Yet John Hedley Greenborough had once worked for Shell as a petrol pump attendant and truck driver. A musician's son, he was born at Kingston upon Thames, Surrey, and educated at Wandsworth School, from where he was due to go to Cambridge to read economics or law.

He achieved a boyhood ambition by qualifying as a pilot with the RAF, but was then sent to Pensacola, Florida, to be trained on Catalina flying-boats. He flew with the United States Navy for a time, before returning to serve as a lieutenant in the Fleet Air Arm.

generously extended the offer to John Greenborough, despite his temporary status with the firm. After thinking long and hard, he turned his back on the prospect of Cambridge and rejoined the company. Drafted to Shell Oil, California, he started at the bottom, gaining experience "on the pumps" or driving tankers, before being sent to Brazil in 1948 — the start of what he was later to describe as the ten happiest years of his career.

More conspicuously, he extended his involvement in public life. He became, among many other things, a member of the British Productivity Council and the National Economic Development Council, and chairman of the pay review body for nursing and ancillary staff. He was made a Freeman of the City of London and awarded an honorary doctorate of law by Birmingham University.

A well-built man with an imposing presence who had once played rugby as an attacking full back, Greenborough included among his strengths a quiet charm and sense of humour. Colleagues said that they never saw him lose his temper. A gifted raconteur, he was in demand as an after-dinner speaker. But there was also a hard centre underneath and a steady determination to do what was right.

He married in 1951 Gerta Ebel, the Brazilian-born daughter of German parents. John Greenborough, who died in a nursing home, is survived by her and by a stepson whom he brought up as his own.

GEORGE BALES



George Bales: his clients could think of themselves as travellers rather than tourists

George Bales, tour operator, died on July 10 aged 88. He was born on September 9, 1909.

GEORGE BALES founded and managed the last substantial tour-operating company to be owned and run by a family within the British travel industry. He pioneered escorted tours of remote regions in Asia and the Far East and, in 1964, was the first to introduce the package tour to China.

Born in Birkenhead, the son of a marine superintendent who had been a master in sail and been shipwrecked twice on tropical islands, the young George Nicholson Bales was suitably foodloose. After sailing the world with the Blue Funnel Line for two years, he jumped ship in Sydney and worked at a variety of jobs in Australia, including selling

second-hand tyres and fish from a barrow. He also trained as an actor and, on his return to London, played in the Ben Travers farces at the Aldwych and, in 1933, appeared as a member of the Robert Atkins company at the Open Air Theatre in Regents Park. But, when war broke out, he was back in Birkenhead as an assistant branch manager of British Home Stores. He volunteered for the RAF and, when the war ended, was a wing commander controlling Transport Command operations in India.

He had trained as a navigator and liked to joke that he was "one of those who, when the pilot asked for his position, would reply: 'Take off your hat, sir — by my calculations we are flying through St Paul's Cathedral'."

But his knowledge of aviation and air movements stood him in good stead. Investing his gratuity of £300 in a small air charter business, he soon made a success of it, flying youth groups to rallies abroad and Boy Scouts to jamborees. In 1960 he switched to tourism in partnership with his wife Molly, his former secretary, whom he had married in 1950. The couple were as indefatigable in pioneering new routes as they were in promoting their business and bringing up their seven children.

Two years later he escorted his first Nile cruise, and for many years he offered these on charming, old-fashioned steamers with outside galleries, like that used for the filming of *Death on the Nile*, for which he made the travel arrangements. Bales was aware of the need to move upstream and to take his travellers further afield. So he pioneered inclusive holidays in Sarawak and Tibet as well as in Australia, New Zealand and Japan. His couriers were chosen for their resourcefulness, education and command of languages, and inspired as much confidence as did the image of the family firm.

When long past retiring age, Bales became chairman of his company, leaving his wife in immediate command as managing director with four of their children working for her. He remained a notable figure in the travel industry, shrewd and benign, his tall frame and beaming pink face often described as Dickensian. At his company's annual party he would tell elaborate jokes with solemn panache.

For more than thirty years in the tour operating business, he showed that the united and enthusiastic family firm was still a match for the impersonal corporation. He is survived by his wife, three sons and four daughters.

PROFESSOR TOM KAISER

Professor Tom Kaiser, radar astronomer and space scientist, died on July 2 aged 74. He was born on May 2, 1924.

TOM KAISER was one of Britain's brightest and most colourful space scientists. He was greatly admired for his intellectual ability and his unwillingness to let a scientific problem beat him. In the early days of radio astronomy at Jodrell Bank, he was fascinated by the train of ionised atoms that an incoming particle of interplanetary dust leaves behind as it burns up in the atmosphere, and the way in which this train can be quantified by looking at the radar pulses that it reflects. His 1953 research article on radio echo studies of meteor ionisation was one of

those classic scientific papers that tie up the loose knots of a subject so completely that few scientists felt the necessity to write on the topic again. His work was a happy marriage between a first-class theoretical brain and a complete mastery of the practical problems of building and running experimental radar and satellite systems. On moving to the University of Sheffield, he took over a local hilltop and covered it with a variety of radar aerials. Many happy nights were spent bouncing radar pulses off meteors and the aurora borealis. With the blossoming of the space age, his research work was directed towards rockets and satellites. Skylark rockets bearing his experiments were flown from Australia and Swe-

den, and these used radio propagation methods to investigate the ionosphere and aurora. The relationships between very low frequency emissions and the production of aurorae were investigated from the British Antarctic Base at Halley Bay and using the British satellite Ariel 3. He was famous among the industrialists of the satellite world for his work on producing a radio-clean satellite. When the satellite Ariel 3 was first tested, all the instruments interfered with each other. Kaiser had a dogged belief that this problem could be solved, and worked for weeks slowly reducing the satellite noise. For years afterwards the UK was the only nation that could produce radio "quiet" satellites. He was very much a

team player and revelled in passing on ideas to others. Thomas Reeve Kaiser was born and educated in Melbourne, Australia, and took a first in physics and radiophysics at the University of Melbourne in 1943. He then worked briefly as a research officer in the Sydney Radiophysics Laboratory of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, while writing an MSc thesis on radar serials at the same time. Kaiser was an active member of the Communist Party and, in 1947, left Australia for good after hearing on the radio that he was wanted for questioning by the authorities just as his ship left harbour. On arriving in England he went up to University College, Oxford, completing his doctor-

ate on the acceleration of charged particles on synchrotron orbits in two years. At Oxford he won a Blue for lacrosse and retained a lifelong love for the game, which he also served in an official capacity. In 1950 Kaiser moved to the University of Manchester's Jodrell Bank Experimental Station as the Turner Newall and ICI Research Fellow. Unfortunately, his October 1952 telegram to President Truman demanding the release from custody of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg (who had passed US atomic bomb secrets to Soviet agents) had used the Jodrell Bank address. This not only considerably upset the Director, Sir Bernard Lovell, but also led to the discovery that one member of the small staff at Jodrell was a secret agent who had also infiltrated himself into the local Communist Party just to keep his tabs on Kaiser. Jodrell's reliance on funding from the United States made Kaiser's continued stay unwelcome. After spending a year as a lecturer in physics at Reading University, he became senior lecturer at the University of Sheffield in 1956. He was appointed to the chair of space physics at Sheffield in 1966, which he held until his retirement in 1987. Sadly, his last years were troubled by ill-health, but he was considerably heartened by the award, in 1994, of the Gold Medal of the Royal Astronomical Society. He is survived by his devoted wife, Pamela, two sons and a daughter.



Tom Kaiser: did pioneering work in the early days of radio astronomy at Jodrell Bank — until his communist beliefs made him unwelcome there

PERSONAL COLUMN

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THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN

Among the many matters now under discussion in the ecclesiastical world is the growing demand, to which fresh expression was given at the Church House meeting last week, for the admission of women to all the ministries of the Church. That women should be allowed to preach will seem to many quite reasonable; for they have the voice, can take high academic honours, and are at least recognised as the spiritual equals of men.

ON THIS DAY

July 17, 1920
It was three-quarters of a century before the ordination of women to the priesthood became a reality, but already the seeds had been sown.

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NEWS

CJD risk could bar British blood

Blood transfusions from British donors could be banned because of the remote risk that they may spread Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, the human form of "mad cow" disease. A decision is expected from the Department of Health within a week.

If British blood — which is free — is banned it would cost the health service millions of pounds to buy supplies from abroad. Page 1

'Private police' may patrol streets

Private security guards could soon be working with police to patrol high streets, suburbs and housing estates. About 50,000 guards would be trained and regulated by the police, who might also direct their operations. The guards would wear uniforms and badges. Page 1

More cash for victims

Motorists, employers and doctors face dearer insurance after a House of Lords ruling which will boost damages awards to accident victims by up to 40 per cent. Page 1

Surgeon suspended

A surgeon was suspended amid allegations that he operated on women with suspected breast cancer without completing routine checks. Page 1

Health crusade

The Government announced the biggest health crusade the country has seen since the NHS was born and was told by doctors, nurses and health service managers that it would fail without extra pay. Page 2

Stage of judgment

A judge is making legal history by travelling to Malta to stay at a hotel in a compensation claim which is said to have dirty bedrooms and a smell. Page 5

Yuppie flu real

Chronic fatigue syndrome — yuppie flu — is a real condition with debilitating effects, Sir Kenneth Calman, the Chief Medical Officer, said. Page 9

Low note for Opera

Sir Richard Eyre castigated Royal Opera House management and said unless it produced a business plan it deserved to have its funding withdrawn. Page 10

Waiting point for acupuncture patient

Diane Thomas, 33, an acupuncture patient, suffered more than pins and needles when she was forgotten in a health centre treatment room. She was told to lie still after her GP stuck more than a dozen needles into her. But he was called out on an emergency and forgot her. She was eventually rescued from the locked and darkened surgery by a cleaner. Page 3

Cheap fashion barred

The EU's highest court choked a main supply of low-price designer clothes, perfumes and sportswear to supermarkets and discount retailers. Page 13

Bank inquiry

The World Bank, which campaigns against corruption in borrower states, has hired independent auditors to investigate evidence of embezzlement in its own ranks. Page 14

Yeltsin mourns Tsar

In a dramatic change of mind, President Yeltsin announced that he would attend when the bones of Russia's last emperor, Tsar Nicholas II, and his family are laid to rest. Page 16

Bounty's secrets

The wreck of the mutiny-struck HMS Bounty may soon shed fresh light on one of history's most enduring seafaring sagas. Page 17

China corruption

Chinese prosecutors charged Chen Xitong, Beijing's disgraced Communist Party chief who defended the Tiananmen Square massacre, with corruption and dereliction of duty. Page 18

Mandela 'marriage'

Nelson Mandela's 80th birthday is being celebrated across South Africa as speculation intensifies that he is to marry his partner, Graça Machel. Page 19



Postal workers in Madras strip yesterday to emphasise claims for more pay and better conditions at the end of an eight-day strike

BUSINESS

Boardroom pay: British directors pay has risen by more than twice the rate of inflation over the past three years, says a report. Page 27

Insurance fears: The wealthy individuals who back Lloyd's of London may revolt if the insurance market reduces their presence on its ruling body. Page 27

Meltdown alert: The Chambers of Commerce accused the Monetary Policy Committee of not living in the real world, claiming that manufacturing was on the verge of "meltdown". Page 27

Markets: The FTSE 100 index fell 34.7 points to close at 6163.3. Sterling's trade-weighted index fell from 104.9 to 104.6 after a rise from \$1.6325 to \$1.6378 but a fall from DM2.9445 to DM2.9346. Page 30

SPORT

Golf: Two Americans, John Huston and Tiger Woods, shared the lead on the first day of the Open Championship at Royal Birkdale with five-under-par rounds of 65. Page 52

Football: Gerard Houllier, the former France coach, has joined Liverpool as joint manager with Roy Evans. He had been expected to move to Celtic. Page 52

Cricket: Lance Klusener, South Africa's opening bowler, is likely to miss the fourth Test at Trent Bridge after returning home for treatment to an ankle injury. Page 47

Cycling: The Tour de France was overshadowed by police holding Festina team officials for questioning after the discovery of drugs in a team car. Page 50

ARTS

Corn gold: Benedict Nightingale heads for the wide open spaces of Oklahoma and is captivated by Trevor Nunn's robust yet subtle staging. Page 34

Upstaged: "To my surprise, I find myself siding with the whingeing luvvies" — Richard Morrison ponders a curious week of mixed news for British theatre. Page 35

Pop 2: Kurt and Courtney, Nick Broomfield's so-called documentary film on grunge's ill-fated first couple is a despicable travesty, says Caitlin Moran. Page 36

Pop 2: David Sinclair reviews Sparkleshore's Good Morning Spider and the rest of the week's new album releases, plus Eagle-Eye Cherry on the advantages of being different. Page 37

FEATURES

In the frame: Sunglasses send a message — and it's not about "lovely weather for the time of year, isn't it?" Dark thoughts from Jane Shilling. Page 20

Like, Jarvis: Jarvis Cocker hates Belgium, television and supermarkets. What he likes, however, is harder to define. Page 21

Net shocker: Two Americans, inspired by British tabloids, started an Internet newspaper full of foreign stories. Their approach is more lowbrow than highbrow, but it's a success. Page 38

Knight rider: Sir John Birt is leaving his beloved BBC in 2000. But first, he tells Raymond Snoddy, he plans to secure its high-tech future with a raised licence fee. Page 39

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

VISION Your 7-day guide to television and radio

SPORT

A giant of sport: W.G. Grace's 150th anniversary is marked by John Woodcock

OPINION

Underclass: Is a youth underclass coming into being? Page 44

So Nicholas re-enters St. Petersburg as a source of conflict, much as he exited eight decades ago after his abdication. That he would remain the subject of contention is partly attributable to the manner in which he died and the brutal revolution in whose name he was killed. But it is also testament to the political and religious divisions that continue to torment Russia. Page 45

Chancellor's spending review: times-tables and calculators; computer clocks; public trust and medical standards; Battle of the Hundred Days; police sickness rates; film mishaps. Page 23

Matthew Parris: Mr Brown did all the talking. Mr Blair, who was silent, did the communicating. If I read the Prime Minister correctly, then something is not right with him. Page 22

Daniel Johnson: We cannot allow globalisation to be meaningless. Unless we can endow the globalised future with significance... we shall surely lose our nerve. Page 22

Philip Howard: Contrary to the view of grumpy old men, the world is not going to the dogs. Most days in most ways, things are getting better and better. Page 22

Letters: Sir John Gorton, oil executive and former president of the CBI; Professor Updegraff, space scientist; George Sales, tour operator. Page 25

Letters: Chancellor's spending review: times-tables and calculators; computer clocks; public trust and medical standards; Battle of the Hundred Days; police sickness rates; film mishaps. Page 23

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,846

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-28 indicating starting points for clues.

- ACROSS
1 Precise details of money and financial contributions, say (5,3).
7 Flat in which I settled (4).
10 Recusant needing conversion, one rather close to Rome? (8).
11 A fighting force absorbing Spanish capital? Not half (6).
12 Pawn in place that leads to small advantage (6).
13 Not going straight — in court, desperate at heart (8).
15 Land in the sea — I almost get killed (4).
16 Grippled a short while, then jump (10).
18 Mother joining husband in a particular European city (10).
21 Break in game (4).
22 Impatient energy shown by workers in factory (8).

- DOWN
20 Unwrens almost exposed poisoner (11).
25 Probe head's health (9).
26 Watches people giving good marks (7).
27 Swindle in secret component of contract (10,5).
28 Purpose of drama school is to bring boy up to read first (7).
29 Men enlisted for rough work (5).
30 Touching alternative for girls lacking passes? (7,4).
31 Noticing patient man losing head over mail, perhaps (9).
32 Issue new shares in serious quantity (7).
33 Garment painter's finished with (7).
34 City in which couples get right above one (5).
35 Fresh paint may be ostentatiously vulgar (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20845. A crossword grid with words filled in, including ENCHILADAS, ECHO, CENTIGRADE, ARCH, MARS, OVERTEACH, ERYTHROLYSIS, LEARNING, UNREAL, CERIM, CELEBRY, SHANGHAI, TOAST, GREGE, ORRISBROOK, BOMB, BEYOND, ALLY, TOURMALINE, TEEN, IRON, EVIL, RANDBRESS.

Times Two Crossword, page 52

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HOURS OF DARKNESS
Sun rises 5:03 am Sun sets 9:10 pm
Moon sets 2:32 pm Moon rises 12:41 am
New moon July 23
London 9:10 pm to 5:04 am
Edinburgh 9:45 pm to 4:53 am
Manchester 9:25 pm to 5:03 am
Perthance 9:25 pm to 5:32 am

FORECAST

General: unsettled with showers. Local thunder in Ireland.
London, E & W Midlands, E Anglia, and SE, Central S, Central N, E & NE England: heavy showers spreading eastwards this morning. Brighter in afternoon. Wind W to SW. Max 20C (68F).
Channel Isles, SW & NW England, S & N Wales, Lake District, Isle of Man: rain clearing to leave sunny spells and occasional showers. Wind SW, gusty. Max 18C (64F).
Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth: rain clearing. Sunny intervals with showers. Max 18C (64F).
SW & NW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Argyll: sunny spells, heavy showers in afternoon. Wind SW, fresh. Max 17C (63F).
NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: rain, brightening. Max 16C (61F).
Ireland: sunshine, heavy showers, perhaps local thunder. Wind SW, blustery. Max 17C (63F).
Republic of Ireland: bright intervals and showers, heavy to the north with risk of thunder. Wind W, moderate or fresh. Max 18C (64F).
Outlook: dry spells.
Pollen forecast: high — NE England, S Wales, East and West Midlands, SW England, Central Southern England. Medium elsewhere.

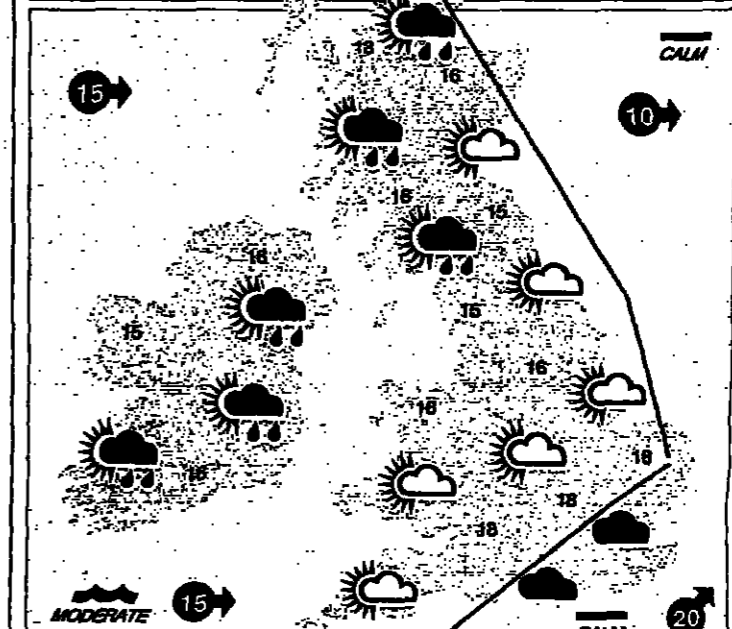
24 hrs to 5pm: b=brilliant; c=cloud; d=dreary; ds=drizzle storm; dsu=du; f=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; s=stale; sw=swamp; s=swamp; s=swamp; s=swamp

Table of weather forecasts for various UK cities including Aberdeen, Angelsey, Argyll, Belfast, Birmingham, Brighton, Bristol, Cardiff, Glasgow, Hull, London, Manchester, Newcastle, Norwich, Nottingham, Oxford, Perth, Plymouth, Reading, Southampton, Swansea, Telford, Torquay, Wrexham, York, etc.

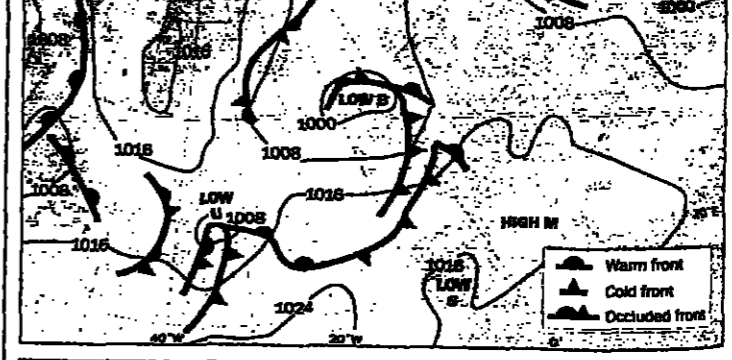
ABROAD

Table of weather forecasts for various international locations including Accro, Almer, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Korea, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom, USA, Venezuela, Vietnam, West Bank, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

BOOK TODAY



Changes to the chart below from noon: low B will move NE and fill as low U transfers NE and deepens; low S will persist with little change; high M will move into eastern Europe and build



HIGH TIDES

Table of high tide times for various UK locations including Aberdeen, Ayr, Belfast, Cardiff, Dover, Exeter, Falmouth, Harwich, Holyhead, Hull, Liverpool, London, Lough Erne, Newcastle, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Southampton, Swansea, Torquay, Wexham, York, etc.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Great Malvern 23C (73F); lowest day temp: Ness, Shetland, 13C (56F); highest minifall: Saltcliffe, Dorset, 0.86in, highest sunless: Weymouth, Dorset, 12.0hrs

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Handwritten Arabic text: سونا من الأمل

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, partially obscured by a newspaper page. Visible words include: "Anger...", "names...", "Lloyd...", "prepar...", "to revo...", "Director pay...", "inflat..."

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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

FRIDAY JULY 17 1998

BCC says manufacturing close to meltdown

By Alasdair Murray
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH Chambers of Commerce (BCC) yesterday accused the Monetary Policy Committee of not living in the real world, claiming that current policy had left manufacturing on the verge of "meltdown".

Ian Peters, deputy director-general of the BCC, attacked the Committee's emphasis on the average earnings data, insisting that wage pressures were not the real reason for the recent increase in inflation.

Mr Peters said: "What we want are more economists with more real-world experience."

Our concern is that the balance of expertise is too heavily weighted to academics."

DeAnne Julius, the only MPC member to oppose the June rate rise, is also the sole member of the committee with industry experience.

Mr Peters' comments came after the BCC's quarterly survey, covering 9,000 companies, showed manufacturing exports had fallen to a record low while domestic sales and orders stood at their worst for six years.

The service sector is also beginning to feel the brunt of the slowdown, with domestic sales and orders declining to a three-year low and exports also tumbling to their

lowest level since the depths of the last recession in 1992.

The BCC said the figures implied Britain faces a "manufacturing meltdown" while the service-sector slide is "gathering pace". The question now facing the Monetary Policy Committee is not whether interest rates should be cut, but when, Mr Peters said.

However, Margaret Beckett, the President of the Board of Trade, insisted that the BCC claims were "nonsense". "There is real concern and that is understandable but there is also a rather more mixed picture," she told the House of Commons.

Economists were less confident that the

Bank would heed the message from the BCC survey pointing to further evidence of tightening in the labour market. Firms reported increased recruitment difficulties, although the BCC said that pay settlements are beginning to ease back.

John O'Sullivan, UK economist at Greenwich NatWest, said: "With the policy discussions increasingly focused on pressures in the labour markets, these are not reassuring readings."

The BCC figures unsettled the stock market, which ended its recent bull run to close down 34.7 at 6116.8, having earlier hit a new intra-day record of 6,180.4. The pound

also slipped a penny against the market to close at DM2.3946.

Separate figures showed the public sector net cash requirement (PSNCR) widening by more than expected in June. The PSNCR, which replaces the public sector debt requirement, stood at £6.1 billion in June compared with expectations of £4.2 billion. Economists, however, dismissed concerns that the Chancellor is in danger of missing his fiscal targets. Over the three months of the financial year so far, the PSNCR is £2.8 billion lower than at the same point last year.

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BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES		
FTSE 100	6116.8	(-34.7)
Yield	2.88%	
FTSE All share	2621.17	(-12.43)
Nikkei	16731.92	(+117.78)
New York		
Dow Jones	9247.34	(+12.87)*
S&P Composite	1173.80	(-1.01)*
US RATE		
Federal Funds	5.75%	(5.75%)
Long Bond	5.07%	(5.70%)
Yield	5.70%	(5.70%)
LONDON MONEY		
3-month Interbank	7.11%	(7.11%)
Libra long go		
future (Sep)	108.58	(108.44)
STERLING		
New York	1.6385*	(1.6383)
London		
\$	1.6375	(1.6389)
DM	1.8342	(2.942)
FF	5.8316	(8.8751)
SP	2.4648	(2.4796)
Yen	228.57	(228.43)
£ Index	104.6	(104.8)
DOLLAR		
London		
DM	1.7905*	(1.7891)
FF	5.9875*	(6.0320)
SP	1.5068*	(1.5108)
Yen	140.52*	(140.51)
£ Index	112.7	(113.1)
Tokyo close Yen 138.73		
NORTH SEA OIL		
Brent 15-day (Oct)	\$13.50	(N/A)
GOLD		
London close	\$292.65	(\$292.58)

* denotes midday trading price

Angered names at Lloyd's prepare to revolt

By Adam Jones

WEALTHY individuals who have traditionally backed Lloyd's of London may revolt if the insurance market decides to reduce their presence on its ruling body.

Sir Adam Ridley, the deputy chairman of the Association of Lloyd's Members (ALM), warned the insurance market yesterday that angry names could take the extreme measure of calling an extraordinary meeting of Lloyd's members. It would be the first since Lloyd's nearly went bust in the early 1990s.

At present, five members of the 19-strong Council of Lloyd's are drawn from the dwindling number of traditional names. There are only two members representing "corporate capital" — the money from pooled funds and companies that was brought in to stave off financial collapse earlier this decade.

In just four years, corporate capital has grown to dominate the market, accounting for 60 per cent of underwriting capacity this year. The companies and funds are now demanding commensurate influence over the running of Lloyd's and want their representation increased.

Partly in response to this pressure, Lloyd's asked Pen Kent, a former director of the Bank of England, to work on proposals for reform. A consultation document issued earlier this year recommended that a plc-type board should be adopted in the long term, with corporate capital and traditional names given three seats between them.

Until then, Mr Kent said, capital providers should split six seats according to how much underwriting they actually supported. On 1998 underwriting levels, this would



Denis Cassidy becomes the chairman of the Newcastle United holding company

Newcastle Utd makes Cassidy new chairman

NEWCASTLE UNITED yesterday said the issue of whether Freddy Shepherd and Douglas Hall, the two disgraced directors, would return to the club, was still under discussion, despite agreeing a new chairman and non-executive director (Jason Nisse writes).

Denis Cassidy, the former Liberty and Boddingtons chairman, assumed the post vacated when Sir Terence Harrison resigned two months ago. John Joseph, a radio entrepreneur, was also appointed as a non-executive director.

Lawyer confirms Hinchliffe's role

By Jason Nisse

LAWYERS acting for Stephen Hinchliffe, the controversial Sheffield businessman, yesterday confirmed that his investment company, Chase Montagu, controlled Feelgood Leisure, the mail order firm.

Keith Oliver, a partner at Peters & Peters, said that Feelgood's purchase of the assets of PricewaterhouseCoopers, the administrators of Facia Footwear, Mr Hinchliffe's retailing business which collapsed in 1996. After Facia's failure, the administrators obtained a mareva injunction freezing Mr Hinchliffe's assets.

Mr Oliver said yesterday that the injunction was no impediment to Mr Hinchliffe or his companies operating in the ordinary and normal course of business and that he is strenuously defending the proceedings brought against him by the administrators.

Mr Oliver, however, refused to discuss when Mr Hinchliffe called himself Stephen Leonard when visiting the business he was buying.

Gas revolution in Peru halted as Shell and Mobil pull out

By Carl Mortished, International Business Editor

SHELL and Mobil have pulled out of a vast project to pipe gas from the Amazon jungle to the coast of Peru.

The oil companies walked away from signing an agreement with the government after 11th-hour negotiations on Wednesday, causing embarrassment to Peru's President, Alberto Fujimori, who once described the \$3 billion (£1.8 billion) Camisea project as "the contract of the century."

The two sides failed to agree on key issues relating to the development of a market for a fuel which does not yet exist in Peru. The core of the dispute appears to be resistance by Peru to a potential distribution monopoly for Shell.

The oil companies wanted government guarantees that a distribution network would be in place in the capital Lima when the pipeline reached the coast. In addition they demanded a more favourable tariff arrangement for gas to promote gas power stations.

The Peruvian Government resisted the oil companies' demands and refused to consider a proposal from Shell that it be allowed to build its own distribution network.

Reports from Peru suggested that the Government could put out to tender a new project within two months based on carving up the project into separate components: exploration, pipeline, distribution.

The failure to agree terms will mean the oil companies will share a \$250 million exploration write-off relating to the huge cost of developing a gasfield in virgin rainforest.

Peru may face a bigger disappointment, as the new energy source was expected to lead to industrial development. The Asian crisis and El Niño have delivered a double whammy to Peru's exports of minerals and fishmeal.

However, oil analysts suggested that Shell and Mobil could be back in the saddle before long. Nick Antill of Morgan Stanley, the broker, said: "Shell and Mobil have been in this thing since its inception."

The 13 trillion cubic feet gasfield at Camisea was discovered by Shell in the mid-1980s but was abandoned because the oil company saw no market for the product. But Shell returned in 1994 and signed a two-year agreement to develop the field in 1996. In May, the Peruvian Government granted Shell a two-month extension.

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Cendant blow

THE crisis at Cendant, the new American owner of National Car Parking and the RAC motoring division, has deepened after a boardroom split between factions from the two companies that merged to form Cendant.

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Empty shops

Sales growth evaporated at WH Smith and Marks & Spencer last month as the World Cup, bad weather and interest rate worries kept customers at home. Sir Richard Greenbury, chairman of Marks & Spencer blamed "appalling weather in June, falling tourism and the disruption in the 20 major stores we are enlarging or refurbishing."

Page 29

Director pay rises at twice inflation rate

By Richard Miles

DIRECTORS' pay has risen by more than twice the rate of inflation over the past three years, according to a survey published today by William M Mercer, the benefits consultancy.

Chief executives of large British companies receive an average base salary of £549,000, an increase of 23 per cent since 1995. But cash bonuses now make up more than half of their total pay.

The study, on the third anniversary of the Greenbury Report on executive pay, shows that UK chief executives are sitting on share options worth an average £1.4 million.

The £52.2 million of options granted to Jan Leschly, chief executive of SmithKline Beecham, are not part of

Expenses 'outrage' of ex-Cortecs chief

By Paul Durman

GLEN TRAVERS, recently ousted as chairman of Cortecs, had two salaries contracts that entitled him to benefits including a cheap mortgage, £33,000 a year for school fees, and £34,500 for air tickets to Australia for his family.

Other unusual benefits included £42,400 for fees, travel and accommodation related to his membership of the Young President's Organisation for business high-flyers, £13,000 for accountancy expenses, and £33,800 for his car expenses outside the UK. This is in addition to a Jaguar and "a second vehicle of equivalent status".

One shareholder said the level of Mr Travers' expenses was "outrageous" and the Cortecs board, now headed by Lord Patten, the former Conservative

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Siemens out to engineer a shake-up for recovery

By Carl Mortished, International Business Editor

SIEMENS, Germany's largest electronics group, plans a big shake-up of its businesses, including disposals and demergers in an effort to improve its stagnating financial performance.

The shift in strategy accompanied a warning that earnings would not outpace sales growth, as previously predicted by the company. Siemens has been hurt by the Asian crisis and a vicious downward spiral in the price of semiconductors. Heinrich von Pierer, chief executive of Siemens, predicted that semiconductors would lose DM1 billion (£345 million) in the current year.

Herr Von Pierer said the company's nine-month results were unsatisfactory, with sales rising 15 per cent but only a 5 per cent growth in net income to DM1.78 billion for the period to June. The order book soared in America and Europe but suffered a 21 per cent decline in Asia.

Weak results in power generation, semiconductors, mobile phones and transport have pushed Siemens into a reversal of its policy towards selling businesses. Siemens announced on Wednesday that it had sold its power transmis-

sion cables business to Pirelli, the Italian tyre and cable maker for DM500 million.

Herr Von Pierer yesterday outlined a 10-point plan for Siemens's recovery which includes plant closures in the semiconductor business, business reorganisations, property sales, share buy-backs, disposals and separate listings for parts of the group. He said: "Businesses that cannot generate their capital costs are being put on the spot."

Siemens's shares gained more than 10 per cent, despite the weak profits. Analysts speculated that Osram, the successful lighting business, might be a candidate for a listing, as would the medical engineering business. Siemens is planning a New York listing for its shares that could help it engineer a tie-up with a US company in the communications sector.

Herr Von Pierer ruled out further large acquisitions. Siemens recently bought Elektrowatt and the Westinghouse power plant business. But the chief executive added: "We want to create the conditions that will allow creative new deals, such as those involving an exchange of stock."



Sour taste: Thornton's has withdrawn 15 new varieties of unpopular chocolates at a cost of almost £300,000. Roger Paffard, the chief executive, pictured left with Jonathan Fellows, finance director, admitted catching a cold being too innovative, but "novelty is part of the business". Analysts lowered profit forecasts for the year to £15.5 million, from £15.9 million. *Tempus*, page 30

Cendant splits over chairman

From Oliver August in New York

THE crisis at Cendant, the new American owner of National Car Parking and the RAC motoring division, has deepened after a boardroom split over the ousting of the chairman.

Walter Forbes, the present chairman, is being held responsible for the falsification of accounts by half the directors, while the other half suspects

Henry Silverman, the chief executive, of planning a coup against Mr Forbes.

Cendant was formed last year by the \$14 billion (£8.5 billion) merger of HFS, headed by Mr Silverman, and CUC, led by Mr Forbes. The two men had agreed to swap roles in 2000 but Mr Silverman is now said to have doubts about handing the

chief executive's position to Mr Forbes.

Mr Silverman's camp is holding Mr Forbes responsible for the made-up CUC accounts exposed in April. Mr Forbes said he was not aware of any problems at the time. Earlier this week, auditors said the fake revenues were more than double the original estimates of about \$100 mil-

lion. Cendant will restate accounts for the last three years.

The 28-member board is evenly split between former CUC and HFS people. Both sides are supporting their former bosses and have hired separate legal advisers.

Mr Forbes said: "I fully plan to become chief executive." To oust him, the board needs an 80 per cent majority.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Fear of MMC block fuels Ladbroke dip

SHARES in Ladbroke retreated yesterday on fears that the Monopolies and Mergers Commission may block its £363 million takeover of Bass's Coral betting shop chain. Industry sources are increasingly convinced that the MMC is determined to preserve a third force in bookmaking behind Ladbrokes and William Hill. However, it is unclear whether this would mean Ladbroke, which signed an unconditional deal with Bass, having to sell all 833 Coral shops in the UK or a proportion of the combined 2,600-strong Ladbrokes/Coral estate.

Earlier this week, the *Telegraph*, which agreed to buy 133 shops from Ladbroke as part of the Coral deal in December, said it would consider bidding for the entire Coral estate if it was put up for sale. Stanley Leisure is also likely to be interested. Ladbroke shares closed 5p lower at 318½p, although most analysts believe the level of interest from potential bidders could enable it to recoup most of what it paid. The MMC's report does not affect the 50 Coral shops in the Republic of Ireland. Ladbroke declined to comment, while the MMC would only confirm that it has until the end of this month to present its report to Margaret Beckett, the President of the Board of Trade.

Shamed firms clear

THE Government has removed 12 names from the "naming and shaming" list of companies that it said had been slow to compensate the victims of pensions mis-selling. The Treasury said the companies, from an original list of 41, have now compensated enough people to allow them to be removed. The companies are Axa Equity & Law, Barclays Life, Britannic Assurance, Commercial Union, Godwins, Guardian, Lloyds TSB, Midland Bank, Norwich Union, Prudential, Royal & Sun Alliance and United Assurance.

MacKenzie close to deal

KELVIN MACKENZIE, the former deputy chief executive of the Mirror Group, yesterday moved closer to taking control of Talk Radio, the national commercial speech radio station. TalkCo, the consortium headed by Mr MacKenzie, said yesterday that it had signed heads of agreement with CLT-UFA, the company which owns 62 per cent of the UK radio station. TalkCo has the support of MVI, the venture capital group which currently owns 35 per cent of the station, and of News International, parent company of *The Times*.

Capital court threat

THE Radio Authority could face a judicial review of its decision to allow Capital Radio, the largest radio group, to rebroadcast its London Capital Gold service on its other radio stations, after the intervention of Francis Wildman, an unsuccessful applicant for a commercial station in Kent. He said he had been told Mr Justice Forbes wanted to hear the issues argued in open court. Lord Hunt, the Labour peer, is to question the Government about the authority "consenting to departures from the terms of independent radio licences".

Vega shares drop

SHARES in Vega Group, the software and engineering company, fell 15p to 442½p after the company reported pre-tax profits for the year to April 30 down £200,000 at £3.1 million. Earnings per share are slightly down on last year at 13.75p (13.79p). The board proposes to freeze the final year dividend at 3.5p, making a total dividend of 5.41p (5.41p). Turnover increased 25 per cent to £22.5 million (£18 million) on the back of record orders for the year of £32.5 million (£19 million). The dividend is payable on August 14.

Britannic sales boost

SHARES in Britannic Assurance rose 19p to £12.61½ after the life insurer announced a 15.6 per cent increase in new business for the half year to June. Total new regular premiums improved by 14.1 per cent to £21.30 million (£18.66 million) and new single premiums were up by 22.9 per cent to £48.22 million (£39.25 million). Analysts said Britannic appeared to have recovered from the disruption caused by management changes last year, while Brian Shaw, the chief executive, said the results showed improved productivity.

Johnson cashes in

LUKE JOHNSON, the entrepreneur who floated PizzaExpress, has added £1.82 million to his personal fortune by cashing in his entire holding of convertible shares in the restaurant chain. Mr Johnson, who earns £100,000 a year from his businesses, secured 500,000 shares at 436p apiece and sold them for 800p each. Shares of the company added 22p to 828p yesterday. The windfall is his second in as many months. In May, he sold his shareholding in American Port Services to Associated British Ports for £950,000.

Thai financiers lose £2bn

THAILAND'S finance and securities companies lost almost 55 billion baht (£2 billion) in 1997, according to the Thai Securities and Exchange Commission. During 1996, the industry compiled profits of £800 million. The SEC report attributed the sectors losses to declining loan revenues and asset quality, higher funding costs and foreign-exchange losses. When Thailand floated the baht a year ago the currency lost some 50 per cent of its value. More than half of the country's finance companies have since been closed.

Novartis sales up 1%

NOVARTIS, the Swiss pharmaceutical company, raised its first-half sales by 1 per cent to SwFr 16.77 billion (£6.8 billion). The group said its first-half pharmaceutical sales were 3 per cent higher than in 1997, although it did not specify the amount. Over the full year, Novartis expects a marked increase in net income to record levels. It called 1998 a transition year marked by a shift from integration to a focus on growth and product launches. Novartis will present its first-half 1998 earnings report at the end of August.

Morgan to launch UK retail fund

By Caroline Merrell

MORGAN Stanley Dean Witter, the £34 billion US securities company, yesterday unveiled its plans for a UK fund management company aimed at retail investors.

The funds will carry no initial charge or bid/offer spread but there will be an annual charge of 1.6 per cent. The company is hoping to emulate the US market, where nearly half the mutual funds carry no initial charge.

Morgan Stanley, which is backing the launch with a multi-million pound advertising campaign, also aims to increase the percentage of people buying investment funds in the UK. Only 10 per cent of households hold unit trusts or their equivalent compared to 40 per cent in the US.

The company will initially offer three funds with varying strategies. One will invest in UK companies, another in European companies, and the third internationally.

Lawyers urge 'fair play' for windfall wives

By Frances Gibb, Legal Correspondent

DIVORCE lawyers are urging MPs to back a "fair play" Bill to come before the Commons tomorrow as a way to end disputes between divorcing couples as a result of building society windfalls.

The Solicitors' Family Law Association (SFLA), which represents 4,500 family lawyers in England and Wales, said that many divorcing wives are having to resort to legal wrangling to receive a fair share of the windfall.

David Salter, chairman of the SFLA, said: "The windfall is paid to the first name on the account — usually the husband — even if the account is jointly held."

Siberia oil company polishes PR image

By Carl Mortished

RUSSIA'S public sector is heading towards anarchy or tyranny, some say, but in the private sector, one company is determined to be a model of corporate propriety. Sibneft, the Siberian oil company is to adopt Russia's first corporate governance charter and is committed to all the paraphernalia: non-executive directors, audit, remuneration and nomination committees.

Eugene Shvidler, president of Sibneft, said the move was logical. "The idea is to publicise how the board works." He is contemplating publishing figures for director's remuneration.

"I see no reason not to," Mr Shvidler said. He is even adopting a "communications policy", placing the oil company light-years ahead of Gazprom, Russia's largest company.

Brunswick, the City public relations firm helped Sibneft by introducing a panel of experts to draw up the charter. These included Jonathan Charkham, a former director of Pro Ned and adviser to the Bank of England but also Sir Geoffrey Owen from the LSE, Jack Spinks, a director at Shell and Simon Walker, communications director at BA.

Commentary, page 29

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.88	2.91
Austria Sch	2.82	18.26
Belgium Fr	68.82	28.56
Canada \$	1.58	1.574
Cyprus Cyp£	0.904	0.882
Egypt £	1.78	10.97
Finland Mk	8.46	8.71
France Fr	10.30	9.52
Germany Dr	3.09	2.82
Greece Dr	11.82	47.2
Hong Kong \$	1.29	1.13
Iceland	129	109
India Rupee	6.38	5.70
Italy Lit	2066	2090
Japan Yen	243.28	228.75
Mex	0.676	0.817
Netherlands Gld	3.484	3.291
New Zealand \$	1.300	1.200
Norway Kr	13.00	290.41
Portugal Esc	21.48	204.1
S Africa Rd	10.78	8.82
Spain Ps	162.13	241.54
Sweden Kr	12.13	12.74
Switzerland Fr	2.61	2.61
Turkey Lira	45.671	42073
USA \$	1.745	1.692

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A question of black and white

COMMENTARY by our City Editor



It would be nice to say that the continuing battle over the stewardship of Newcastle United is not a black and white issue. But it is. It is a fight to secure the principles of sound corporate governance over the interests of a majority shareholder. It shows that mistakes made when the club (and many other companies, it has to be said) was floated, come back to haunt it weeks, months and years after the initial listing. It shows why the shares have underperformed the football sector — a sickly beast itself — and maybe even when the Magpies have suffered such a poor season on the football field. Amazingly enough, the battle is still a festering sore that yesterday's appointment of a new chairman and a new non-executive director has done little to treat.

It is hard not to like Denis Cassidy. The genial Georgie has had a long and distinguished business career. But lately it has been going sour, with him being ousted from Liberty, presiding over a reversal in fortunes at Ferguson International and Oliver Group, and facing two shareholder revolts in a year. He is the only one of the original five non-executive directors of Newcastle United still to be on the board and by process of elimination, he became the obvious candidate as chairman. Even then it took two months for his position to be confirmed as the board battled over the issue

of what to do with Freddy Shepherd and Douglas Hall. The two directors were recorded by a journalist in a Spanish brothel. They candidly and insultingly discussed the Newcastle United players and supporters. In any normal company they would have been sacked immediately. But Mr Shepherd's company owns 9 per cent of the club's shares and Mr Hall's 57 per cent. It took weeks to have them ousted and then only when Sir John Hall, Douglas's father, was allowed to return as chairman of Newcastle United Football Club, the subsidiary that effectively runs the club.

Sir John then started the process of trying to bring the duo back into the club. Sir Terence Harrison, chairman of the parent company, and John Mayo, the respected finance director of GEC and non-executive at Newcastle, resisted. They ultimately gave up the fight and resigned. The wrangling went on and yesterday, when Mr Cassidy was asked whether Freddy and Douglas were to make a return, he said this was still unresolved.

Unresolved? This is a company with thousands of investors whose shares are regularly traded on the market. It is a

company that deserves to be run by people respected by the City, the employees and the fans, who ultimately pay everyone's wages. If the Hall and Shepherd family think it is their fiefdom they should do the honourable thing and take the business private again. Otherwise they should let this public company be run as a proper business and accept that Freddy and Douglas have forfeited their right to have a role in it.

Shell v Peru in haggle in the jungle

Forget any idea that the world is short of natural gas. Russia is floating on it and huge discoveries have been made in all corners of the globe, from Namibia to Kazakhstan. Sadly there is no correlation between the gas and its potential markets. Moving the stuff long distances costs a lot more, rel-

ative to value, than moving even the crudest of oil. Gas in the wrong place, without a market, can therefore easily be worthless.

That is essentially the problem in Peru. Shell, with Mobil in tow, has uncovered one of the biggest natural gas deposits of all near Camisea, in the jungle where sources of the Amazon rise. Not a lot of demand there.

To build a 500-km gas pipeline right across the Andes to Peru's coastal capital Lima would cost about £1.5 billion and multiply the financial risk. Shell wants Peru to shoulder much of that risk by guaranteeing a market and a price.

This appears to be one of those projects that simply would not happen in a competitive, purely private enterprise market. But a deal should do it.

Peru's president, Alberto Fujimori, is not anxious to see the full downstream distribution network controlled by Shell. He has not helped by licensing more

coal-fired power stations. But he and his Government of technocrats have doubtless also learnt a thing or two from all those old British Gas take-or-pay contracts for North Sea gas.

Once the pipeline is built, Shell could be held to ransom; before it is built, President Fujimori can be. The Camisea project, worth about £1.8 billion inward investment in itself, could easily bring another £3 billion of industrial investment in its train. It is central to the country's economic expansion plan. The President's prestige and the country's image as an attractive host for foreign investment are at stake. Abandoning Camisea would leave a huge hole. Peru's new-found, much-needed political stability could fall down it.

In such a stand-off, a top multinational is as powerful as a developing country. Mr Fujimori had plenty of practice during the Japanese Embassy siege 18 months ago. He hoped to an-

nounce a Camisea deal on his visit to London last week. Shell took extra time to say no, at least saving him embarrassment. But Shell has not walked away. Nor is it likely to hand over the fruits of its £250 million initial work to a rival. Even Shell cannot afford to let projects like this slip away. Seconds out for the next round of the haggle in the jungle.

Ain't nobody here but us chickens

Page 36 of the Unigate annual report makes illuminating reading. The company says that it is falling into line with best practice for corporate governance (as espoused in the Cadbury and Hempel reports), and only hiring new executives on one-year contracts. Yet its chief executive, the £766,000-a-year Sir Ross Buckland, is on a 24-month deal which extends to 36 months in the event of the group being taken over.

A quick call to investing institutions yesterday found many of them unhappy about Sir Ross's notice period, which is a double breach of best practice (being both more than a year and

having a change of control clause), but few willing to act. One even said: "When Granada cut notice periods, it made an ex-gratia payment to the directors. We don't want that to happen again." Golly gosh. This sounds even more chicken than Unigate's product portfolio.

Thankfully the Unigate remuneration committee, led by John MacGragor, the former Tory cabinet minister, is made of sterner stuff. It has pointed out this anomaly to Sir Ross, and discussions are taking place. Expect a deal to cut his notice period to a year to be struck soon with not a penny paid to the Unigate boss. With even Russian companies adopting corporate governance principles, Unigate's model, rather than the disgraceful show delivered by Granada, should now be adopted across the upper echelons of British industry.

Lone voice

FIFTY-EIGHT million people agree with DeAnne Julius. Crucially eight do not. The British Chambers of Commerce yesterday accused the Monetary Policy Committee of being out of touch with the country and not having enough representatives from business. Indeed Eddie George and crew are close to achieving the impossible, for many people are now wishing interest rate policy was back in the hands of the politicians.

WHS and M&S growth washed away in wet June

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM AND JENNIFER HANAWALD

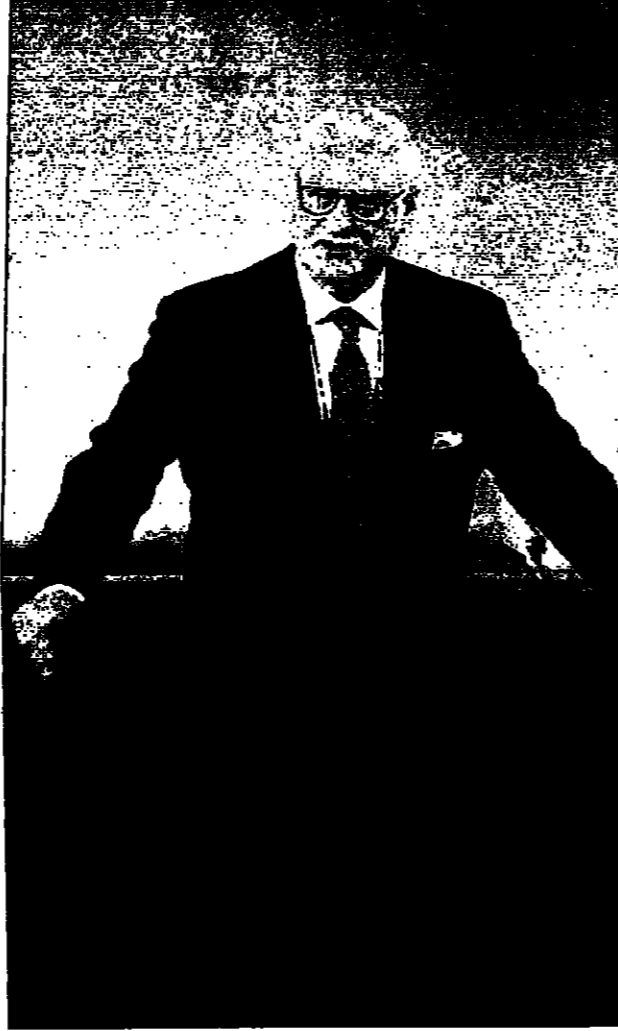
WH SMITH and Marks & Spencer saw their sales growth evaporate last month as the World Cup, bad weather and interest rate worries kept customers at home.

Sir Richard Greenbury, chairman of Marks & Spencer, told the company's annual meeting that "appalling weather in June, falling tourism and the disruption in the 20 major stores we are enlarging or refurbishing" had affected trade.

Sales of food were 5.3 per cent ahead in April and May, but a slow June meant the quarter was only 3.6 per cent ahead. Other sales were 10.3 per cent ahead at the end of May, but after June the quarter was "barely 5 per cent up".

WH Smith reported that same-stores sales rose 7 per cent in the year to May 31, but were then flat in June. Richard Handover, chief executive, said that the World Cup had had a major effect, and that business has picked up in July. Keith Hammill, finance director, said that falling consumer confidence as a result of interest rate rises was also affecting sales. "It does appear that there are indications of a downturn in consumers' willingness to buy things," he said, adding that other retailers were talking of bad trade in June continuing into July.

The British Retail Consortium reported earlier this



Sir Richard Greenbury cited bad weather and falling tourism

Tempus, page 30

C&W plans a £887m share placement

BY PAUL DURMAN

CABLE & WIRELESS, the British cable and telecoms group, yesterday said it was planning to launch a £887 million share placing to fund the £1.1 billion acquisition of MCI's Internet business revealed on Tuesday (Chris Ayres writes).

MCI had agreed to sell only some of its Internet assets to C&W, but was forced to dispose of all of them to gain approval from the US Justice Department and the European Commission for its \$37 billion (£22.6 billion) merger with WorldCom.

C&W will place 112 million new shares at 800p each. It is thought to be the biggest Stock Exchange share placing. Its shares fell 20p to 822p in early trading, but recovered to close at 840p. The placement would not be conditional on the acquisition, C&W said.

Biotech chief's disappointment

BY PAUL DURMAN

APPARENTLY chastened by its recent troubles, British Biotech yesterday struck a cautious tone as it set out the challenges it faces in bringing its cancer drug to market.

The company pointed out that the lead trial of marimastat is in pancreatic cancer, "widely regarded as one of the most aggressive cancers and therefore one of the most demanding benchmarks".

The excitement about marimastat was based on its apparent effectiveness against a wide range of cancers. Two years ago, the hopes gave British Biotech a stock market value of £2 billion, almost ten times its current worth.

John Raisman, chairman, said the last year had been disappointing because of the company's failure to win regu-

Hemmings raises stake in Vymura

BY PAUL DURMAN

A HOSTILE takeover bid for Vymura, the wallpaper company, came closer yesterday as Pontins businessman Trevor Hemmings increased his ownership (Robert Cole writes).

Mr Hemmings, via an investment vehicle he controls called Guild Ventures, bought 800,000 shares in Vymura earlier in the week — equivalent to a 3.1 per cent stake in Vymura, taking Guild's total holding to 22.3 per cent. It has to bid for the whole company at 29.9 per cent.

Guild has raised its stake in Vymura from just over 9 per cent in March. The additional investment cost nearly £1.1 million and the whole stake is worth £7.8 million. Shares were unchanged at 135p yesterday.

Gas group voices fear of job cuts

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

SOME 1,300 jobs will be lost in the offshore gas industry and £2 billion of investment in new gas fields will be cut if the current moratorium on gas power stations is maintained, the Government has been warned.

The threat comes in the UK Offshore Operators' Association's submission to the energy review that was launched to secure a market for coal. The review, consultation on which closes next Monday, proposed a continued block on new gas-fired power stations despite fierce objections from the industry.

The association claims that if the Government keeps the moratorium for five years then new gas fields would have to be deferred. In addition to delayed investment in new fields, it says that £1.8 billion would be lost to the Treasury in tax revenue.

Hi-Tec Sports in waiting game for higher bidders

BY FRASER NELSON

HI-TEC SPORTS, the trainers group, said yesterday it has received many takeover offers from "high quality" bidders since putting itself up for sale in April — but has failed to be able to agree a price with anyone.

Frank van Wezel, the chairman who controls 52 per cent of the shares, said he has been "gratified" by the attention from other companies but has not yet been offered a sufficiently high price.

A recovery in America accomplished by focusing on the performance rather than fashion end of the market, helped the company turn its best profits for six years in the 52 weeks to May 1.

Even though turnover continued its long-term decline, buying cheaper from Far Eastern factories allowed a

Atlantic to raise £110m for growth

BY CHRIS AYRES

ATLANTIC TELECOM, the upstart Scottish wireless telecoms operator which recently won government approval to extend its service throughout Britain, yesterday said it planned to raise £110 million.

The company, which is capitalised at about £76 million, will raise £50 million through a placing of 33.3 million shares at 150p each, and £60 million through a senior debt facility. Atlantic said the package would fund expansion in Scotland.

The group said it had made a good start to the year, with customers rising to 35,321 at the end of June from 31,083 at the end of March. However, losses deepened from £2.8 million to £9.5 million during the year to March, while sales rose 37 per cent from £6.7 million to £10.6 million. The loss per share deepened from 7.25p to 18.86p.

David S Smith slides on sterling

BY TIMON DAY

STERLING'S rise against continental currencies knocked £40 million off David S Smith's full-year profits to May 2, accounting for nearly all the 48 per cent pre-tax fall to £51.1 million.

Peter Williams, chief executive of the paper and packaging manufacturer, said the immediate outlook is not much better. The shares fell 12p to 202½p.

The key pound-mark rate has worsened from 2.51 to 2.93 in Smith's financial year, making a total sterling appreciation of about 30 per cent over two years. The effect is twofold in reducing the value of continental profits and forcing price cuts in the UK to combat increased imports.

Mr Williams is pessimistic about the UK, which accounted for two-thirds of last year's profits: "We are losing markets to continental competitors who can undercut our prices by 20 to 30 per cent."

The revival of continental economies has helped the group's French and German operations, with profits rising in the second half. Further recovery is expected, particularly in office products.

The price war is abating with long-awaited paper price rises of 10 per cent last spring after collapsing from £350 to £200 per tonne.

John Dickinson Stationery, bought for £17 million two years ago, is back in the red, prompting thoughts of recouping this sum by shutting its valuable site in Hemel Hempstead for housing re-development.

Cost-cutting trimmed overheads by around £35 million last year and a similar amount will be cut this year. Capital investment will also fall off. The dividend rises 2.5 per cent to 8.2p after a 5.5p final on earnings down from 23.1p to 11.9p.

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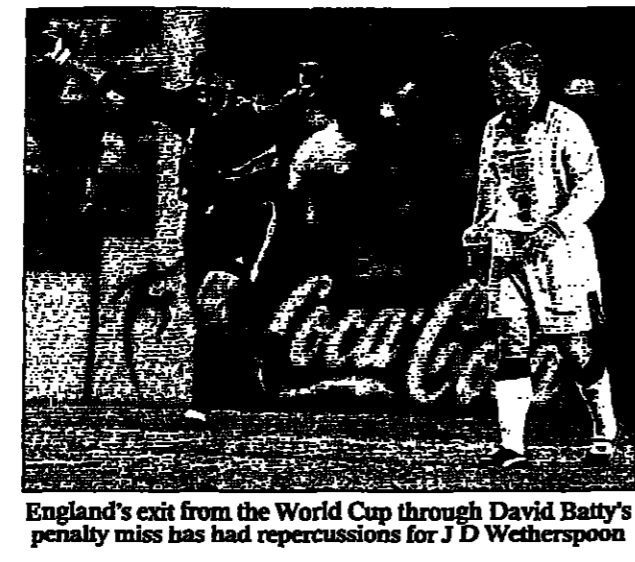
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Stock Market Writer of the Year

Asda chased higher as stock shortage revealed

MARKET-MAKERS are feeling the heat as Asda became the best performer among the top 100 companies, racing up 8p to 214p and highlighting an apparent stock shortage.

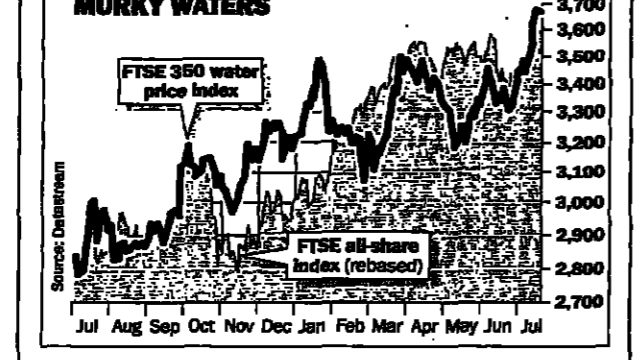


England's exit from the World Cup through David Batty's penalty miss has had repercussions for J D Wetherspoon

By the close of business almost ten million shares had changed hands with one buyer mopping up loose stock with the purchase of 1.45 million shares at 207 1/2p. It was followed by the purchase of a further 395,400 shares at 214p.

dearly after installing a large number of widescreen televisions in its pubs at great expense. Publicans have complained of a sharp drop in sales since England's exit.

A firm opening start to trading on Wall Street enabled the FTSE 100 index to halve its losses, ending 34.7 down at 4,116.8. Turnover topped a billion shares, helped by a large placing in Cable & Wireless, down 2p at 840p.



A SERIES of rogue trades on the Stock Exchange's computerised dealing system, SETS, led several water companies nursing sizeable losses. Thames finished 13 1/2p down at £10.29 after three trades totalling 195,900 shares went through at the lower level just before the close.

nationally and increase the cash prizes in gaming machines. According to Credit Suisse First Boston, the broker, the moves are expected to boost annualised profits of Ladbrokes, down 5p at 318 1/2p. Stakis, 1 1/2p lower at 123 1/2p. London Clubs, up 10 1/2p at 175 1/2p. Capital Corporation, 1p firmer at 80 1/2p, and Rank Group, 8p off at 305p.

This week's "buy" recommendation from Dresdner Kleinwort Benson continued to fuel Lynx Group, the information and technology specialist, which responded with a rise of 8 1/2p to a peak of 255p.

Intermediate Capital fell 20p to 572 1/2p on talk of a profits downgrade by Cazeno.

In the futures pit, the September series of the long gilt touched £108.20 before rallying to close £102.12 at £108.56 as a total of 66,000 contracts were completed. The short-dated future also put on £0.15 at £103.13 on meagre turnover of 32 contracts.

MAJOR INDICES

Table listing major stock indices: New York (midday), Tokyo, Hong Kong, Amsterdam, Sydney, Frankfurt, Singapore, Brussels, Paris, Zurich, London, FT 30, FTSE 100, FTSE 250, FTSE All-Share, FTSE MSCI Financials, FTSE MSCI Health Care, FTSE MSCI Industrials, FTSE MSCI IT, FTSE MSCI Media, FTSE MSCI Telecom, FTSE MSCI Utilities, FTSE MSCI Consumer Goods, FTSE MSCI Energy, FTSE MSCI Healthcare, FTSE MSCI Technology, FTSE MSCI Financial Services, FTSE MSCI Real Estate, FTSE MSCI Infrastructure, FTSE MSCI Natural Resources, FTSE MSCI Other.

Table listing various company shares: ADVA Group, Advance Dev Mkts, Anglo Siberian Oil, Baldwin Inds Sys, Biocrypts Warrants, British Rgnl Air, CCM Distribution, City Gourmes, Coca-Cola Bevs, Dresdner RCM End, Dresdner RCM Inc, Dresdner RCM Zer, ECom, Game, HW, Interior Services, JSB Software Techs, London Town PWS, Murray Financial, Policy Master Grp, Quantica, Sports & Outdr Media, Touchstone Grp, Tricolor Tech, Williams Non Com.

Table listing various company shares: Cox Insnce n/p (400), First Choice n/p (130), LEPCO n/p (40), Martin Ind n/p (25), Murray n/p (25), Ommmedia n/p (60).

Table listing various company shares: RISES: Photo-Me, Stanley Leds, Brit Alcorn, RSC, Mendes (John), BG, PizzaExpress, FALLS: Vanguard, Thornton, KBC Adv Tech, GRE, Hansen, Reuters.

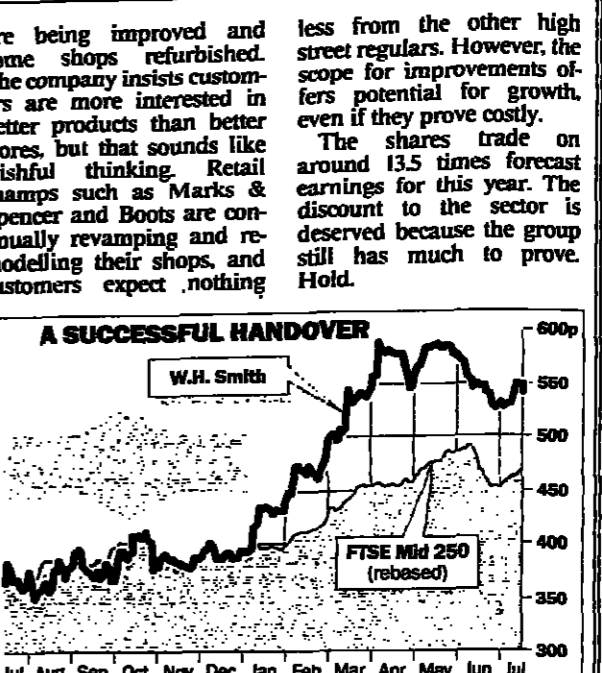
TEMPUS

A missed opportunity

CAUTION is the watchword at David S Smith, the hard-hit packaging and paper group. Peter Williams, the chief executive, is fed up with his back teeth with talk of sterling but its strength has held profits and until the leak is fixed recovery will be limited.

The board chickened out of buying Kappa Packaging, deciding for a group capitalised at £650 was too risky for a group capitalised at such a level. Mr Williams acknowledges that such opportunities do not come often: Kappa would have promoted Smith, currently number four in a European leader in the corrugated board market in northern Europe.

Richard Handover, who took over as chief executive last September, has managed to restructure the company remarkably quickly. Waterstone's, Virgin Our Price and The Wall have all gone. Opportunistically buying John Menzies' retail business was a smart move that has added bulk in the right place.



Underlying sales growth may have slowed, but it remains impressive. It bottomed at 5.4 per cent — a figure most retailers would kill for. Also, 119 new chocolate lines have succeeded against the 15 that had to be withdrawn — an impressive hit rate.

Small wonder, then, that he has now tripped up. The problem is, quite simply, that Thornton's is not yet big enough for his ambitions. Yesterday's hiccup demonstrates exactly this.

Withdrawing 15 lines of chocolate lines would have been far less expensive had he launched them next year, by which time bar-code scanners will have been installed to give an immediate warning when sweets are left on the shelf.

Atlantic Telecom is the next COLT or the next Ionica? Again we have a small telecoms company with ambitions (and a market valuation) out of all proportion with its revenues.

Table listing various commodities: COCOA, ROBUSTA COFFEE, WHITE SUGAR, MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION.

Table listing various commodities: CRUDE OILS, GNT LONDON GRAIN FUTURES, LIFTS POTATO, RUBBER, LIFFE BITEX, GAS OIL, BRENT, LONDON METAL EXCHANGE.

Table listing various commodities: Long Gilt, German Govt Bond, Five Year Gilt, Italian Govt Bond, Japanese Govt Bond, Three Mth Sterling, Three Mth Euro, Three Mth Euribor, Three Mth Euribor, Three Mth Euro, FTSE 100.

Table listing various commodities: Base Rates Clearing Banks, Treasury Bills, Prime Bank Bills, Sterling Money Rates, Overnight, Local Authority Depos, Sterling CDs, Dollar CDs, Building Society CDs.

Table listing various commodities: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Italy, Japan, Korea, Netherlands, Norway, Singapore, Spain, Switzerland, Argentina, Bahraini dollar, Brazilian real, Canadian dollar, Czech koruna, Danish krone, Euro, Finnish markka, Hong Kong dollar, Indian rupee, Indonesian rupiah, Japanese yen, Korean won, Kuwaiti dinar, Malaysian ringgit, New Zealand dollar, Pakistani rupee, Philippine peso, Singapore dollar, South African rand, Sri Lankan rupee, Thai baht, Turkish lira, US dollar, US dollar (foreign), US dollar (local), US dollar (international).

Table listing various commodities: ANP Inc, AMP Corp, AT & T, Advanced Micro, Amgen, Amgen (UK), Amgen (US), Amgen (Japan), Amgen (Australia), Amgen (Canada), Amgen (France), Amgen (Germany), Amgen (Italy), Amgen (Japan), Amgen (Korea), Amgen (Netherlands), Amgen (Norway), Amgen (Singapore), Amgen (Spain), Amgen (Switzerland), Amgen (Australia), Amgen (Austria), Amgen (Belgium), Amgen (Canada), Amgen (Denmark), Amgen (France), Amgen (Germany), Amgen (Italy), Amgen (Japan), Amgen (Korea), Amgen (Netherlands), Amgen (Norway), Amgen (Singapore), Amgen (Spain), Amgen (Switzerland).

Table listing various commodities: ASIA, AFRICA, AMERICAS, EUROPE, OCEANIA, AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, SOUTH AFRICA, ISRAEL, MIDDLE EAST, AFRICA, AMERICAS, EUROPE, OCEANIA, AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, SOUTH AFRICA, ISRAEL, MIDDLE EAST.

Table listing various commodities: FTSE INDEX, FTSE 100, FTSE 250, FTSE All-Share, FTSE MSCI Financials, FTSE MSCI Health Care, FTSE MSCI Industrials, FTSE MSCI IT, FTSE MSCI Media, FTSE MSCI Telecom, FTSE MSCI Utilities, FTSE MSCI Consumer Goods, FTSE MSCI Energy, FTSE MSCI Healthcare, FTSE MSCI Technology, FTSE MSCI Financial Services, FTSE MSCI Real Estate, FTSE MSCI Infrastructure, FTSE MSCI Natural Resources, FTSE MSCI Other.

Table listing various commodities: Gold, Silver, Platinum, Palladium, Nickel, Copper, Zinc, Lead, Tin, Aluminium, Iron, Steel, Coal, Oil, Gas, Uranium, Plutonium, Radium, Polonium, Francium, Actinium, Thorium, Protactinium, Neptunium, Plutonium, Americium, Curium, Berkelium, Californium, Einsteinium, Fermium, Mendelevium, Nobelium, Lawrencium, Rutherfordium, Dubnium, Seaborgium, Bohrium, Hassium, Meitnerium, Darmstadtium, Tennessium, Oganesson.

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صلا من الأمل

Marching in step but to a different tune

There are those who fear something of a culture shock when Sir Clive Thompson takes over as President of the Confederation of British Industry next Tuesday. The post is traditionally held by an establishment-minded figure such as Sir Michael Angus, chairman of Whitbread, or Sir Bryan Nicholson, the former Post Office chief. When the political establishment changes, the CBI has been prepared to change with it, installing the Labour-friendly Sir Colin Marshall as President for the past two years.

Sir Clive is a touch different. He has forced himself into the business elite by transforming the distinctly unglamorous Rentokil pest control business into Britain's largest business services company. Sir Clive is a hero in the City, where his determination to raise profits by a fifth every year has earned him the nickname "Mr 20 per

cent". Yet equally there are those in the business elite who find him too brash, and abrasive and can scarcely hide the fact that they are itching for him to take a fall.

It was Thatcherism that made a company such as Rentokil initial possible. This is not the kind of creative, knowledge-based, value-added, services company that Labour likes to laud as the future of the British economy. Rentokil has prospered because anti-union legislation and the absence of a minimum wage has made it possible to keep down the costs of employing a mass of cleaners and security guards. It has picked up a raft of contracts in the public sector through compulsory competitive tendering. And when the profits target has looked under threat, Sir Clive has been prepared to take on the kind of bruising takeover battle - most notably for BET initial - that



ALASDAIR MURRAY

new Labour still feels distinctly uncomfortable about.

Sir Clive, not surprisingly, appears reluctant to bite the hand that has fed him. He is on record as a staunch opponent of the minimum wage, warning about its employment consequences. Unusually for a FTSE-100 company chief, who are normally too worried about accusations of "fat catery", he has freely admitted that "several" thousand of his 80,000 staff received less than the Government's recommended £3.60 an hour level.

It is his views on the unions, however, that have already brought him most directly into

Hull hangs up on a long-distance nuisance call

Those who live or try to do business in Hull must wince every time they hear the infamous line "from Hell, Hull and Halifax, may the Good Lord deliver us," taken from a 17th century vagabonds' prayer. Laurence Zimmerman, the American businessman trying to buy one of the city's most valuable assets - its telephone company, Kingston Communications - must be reciting the passage in his sleep.

Mr Zimmerman, a telecom entrepreneur who founded Nasdaq-listed National Wireless Holdings in the US, deserves credit for spotting the potential of Kingston, based in a city generally derided or ignored by most of Britain's population. Everything from the city's most famous poet - the cele-

brated misanthrope, Philip Larkin - to the allegedly wafts around its central shopping area, has become a source of popular humour for those who live outside East Yorkshire.

The smooth-talking American should probably try cracking some of these jokes to the leaders of Hull City Council, which controls Kingston, as they would undoubtedly get a warmer response than his £245 million bid for a 49 per cent slice of their telecom company. His offer was made in response to the council's plans to raise funds for the company, possibly through a £400 million-plus stock market float.

Council leaders, advised by Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, have since made it clear that they want Kingston to remain controlled by the residents of Hull. They have refused to even meet Mr Zimmerman. In a blunt response to a telephone call from *The Times* yesterday, Patrick Doyle, the council leader, belatedly: "This is a cowboy maverick bid, for a company that is not up for sale."

Mr Zimmerman has probably already realised that it would be unwise to underestimate the determination of a group of plain-talking Yorkshiremen. After all, it was Hull that gave us John Prescott, Deputy Prime Minister. Mr Zimmerman has al-

ready found himself at the centre of a bizarre "fishgate" scandal, in which he was alleged to have offered fish-and-chip suppers to members of the city council. They responded with a gruff warning that his invitation could be in breach of the Public Bodies Corrupt Practices Act 1889. Council researchers have also discovered that William Aylward, the former chief executive of Kingston, now works as a consultant for Mr Zimmerman, and that the American businessman was temporarily banned from being a stock broker during the 1980s in the US.

Hull council's critics argue that Kingston has become an anachronism, having escaped various industry consolidation programmes since its formation in 1902. It has enjoyed a position of splendid isolation, and almost complete monopoly, ever since. Its last financial results show profits of nearly £12 million on sales of £128 million. But times have changed in the world of telecoms, and Kingston has come under pressure to modernise. The Government is expected to open up the Hull market to competition from BT and Don Cruickshank, the former Director-General of Ofel, the telecoms watchdog, recently accused the company of denying its customers the benefits of the information age.

The future of Kingston now looks uncertain. It needs cash to expand its subsidiary, set-up as a joint venture with Yorkshire Electricity, and it has committed itself to launching a cutting-edge high-speed telecoms network. At present, Hull City Council's plans to raise money for expansion through the markets, yet keep the company municipally owned, look unrealistic. Mr Zimmerman's bid also looks far-fetched, but his presence in Hull will surely raise the issue of how Kingston has managed to escape competition for so long. It will be an interesting contest.

Council leaders refused to meet Mr Zimmerman

Names are still the best policy for the future of Lloyd's

Private money has a vital role in developing the insurance market, says Michael Deeney



Michael Deeney says Lloyd's has the world's most sophisticated venture capital market

Will the Lloyd's name disappear? Prominent agents at the London insurance market believe the name is on the way to extinction but there are compelling reasons why the fall in numbers will not lead to the complete domination of Lloyd's by corporate members.

It is not in the commercial interest of Lloyd's, nor the City of London, for the market to become an association of insurance companies. Innovation, the development of new insurance products and new approaches to risk management are vital to future success.

Innovation in insurance underwriting requires access to substantial capital. Unfortunately the bulk of insurance capital is held by large insurance companies, which tend to be bureaucratic and slow. The record of British composite insurers in international insurance has been inconsistent and marked by an inability to respond flexibly to new challenges.

Innovation in insurance requires access to venture capital. The capital structure at Lloyd's is the most sophisticated venture capital market in the world. Able young underwriters have the opportunity to develop markets and products with a commercial freedom and flexibility that is the envy of their equivalents in the company market.

It may be understandable that some underwriters and some managing agencies prefer to have some distant corporate parent who provides them with permanent capital. It may also be that those members of the current generation of underwriters who sell their agencies for large capital

sums will continue to perform as effectively as they have done in the past for a time. However, an entirely corporate Lloyd's will no longer offer the incentives to a future generation of underwriters.

A second reason why the Lloyd's name might not face extinction is the hitherto unrealised potential value of syndicate capacity. The world outside Lloyd's has not generally appreciated the significance of capacity value. Until recently, it cost no more for a name to underwrite on a well managed syndicate than to be on a mediocre one. Those names who had conscientious and well connected members agencies, made healthy profits all

names to cease underwriting, while seeking to purchase capacity from them at the same time, has openly admitted the conflict of interest. Some names have suggested that there is a clear commercial incentive for underwriters who wish to purchase capacity on syndicates to point out the most negative aspects of continued underwriting. If many names withdraw from the market and sell their capacity this year, these agencies can buy capacity more cheaply. The regulatory authorities at Lloyd's have indicated that communications by agents to names are now being scrutinised carefully.

It is clear that most of the insurance markets in which Lloyd's plays a leading role are at the bottom of the underwriting cycle and that rates are very low. Although this development has been predicted for the past two years it has created a second wave of departing names to add to the wave who suffered heavy losses between 1988 and 1992.

The second wave continued underwriting and benefited from the large profits of 1993, 1994, and 1995. But they wish to retire and are unwilling to trade through the downturn or they believe that names are doomed to extinction.

These predictable departures have obscured the hard core of names who are determined to continue to underwrite. They have actually increased their investment in Lloyd's. It is a striking fact that only 18 per cent of names wrote more than £500,000 annually in 1990, but now 50 per cent write at this level.

The names who have made this decision to increase their commitment to Lloyd's clearly believe that the traumatic losses of the past have led to the survival of the fittest. Profit figures of recent years indicate the much higher professional standards of Lloyd's. Names have received cheques totalling an average of £140,000 over the past three years.

Another factor is that a significant number of names at Lloyd's are actually working members. They appreciate

that it is possible to purchase capacity on good syndicates at bargain prices and that the tax advantages of underwriting through the annual venture continue to be attractive.

The third reason names will not disappear is that it is legally impossible to abolish them. The best legal advice indicated that the 1982 Lloyd's Act prevents the Council from mandating the creation of a purely corporate Lloyd's.

What is equally important is that names have the ability to block any changes to Lloyd's rules and regulations against their interest.

The author is chairman of the Association of Lloyd's Members.

Spell in jail

FRAUDSTERS would do well to master the three "Rs" before taking on the City, according to the latest annual report from the Serious Fraud Office. Police cracked a £2 million fraud against Chaps, the payments system, by picking up the repeated mis-spelling of "yours sincerely" in a series of forged letters of authorisation.

Even on their arrest after a high-speed car chase, two of the fraud's five organisers failed to learn their lesson, continuing their fraud while on bail but shifting the focus to bank branches in Scotland.

A third hit on the brilliant idea of getting a taxi driver to deliver the letter of authorisation to the bank and was arrested shortly afterwards. Their sentences ranged from three years' imprisonment to a £1,000 fine. Perhaps they should have paid more attention in the classroom.



I am delighted - all right, I am mildly pleased - to learn that Highland Distillers was successful in its bid for a rare 17th century history of Orkney being sold at Sotheby's. As reported earlier this week, the group plans to present the precious manuscript to the Orkney Library. While experts had thought the bidding might go up to £30,000, Highland only had to pay £9,200.

Motley crew AND now I am extremely annoyed. Something called *The Motley Fool UK Investment Guide*, which claims to show punters how to beat the City experts, has quoted me as recommending the book to readers. "A genuine attempt to demystify," is what I am supposed to have said about the book's progenitor, an online investment club. What I actually said was that this was an attempt that failed, and was a far too sim-



plistic approach to investment analysis. The publicity people blame the authors. It really is outrageous, taking a few words out of context and twisting them to mean something completely different. They ought to leave that sort of thing to journalists.

Poor cousin

POOR Ian Rosenblatt, the City solicitor, has been inundated with calls after yesterday's story in *The Times* about Stephen Hincliffe, the not-universally popular South Yorkshire businessman, whose sidekick is one Ian Rosenblatt. Not the same one. The Hincliffe Rosenblatt is from Liverpool, and has a brother, David, who was behind a rather colourful Ofex

float called the Sandwich Bank and Crust Company, as well as a cousin, Michael, a director of Rosby's, the furniture retailer who recently had a bit of trouble with the trading standards authorities.

Ian Rosenblatt, the lawyer, is but a distant cousin of Ian Rosenblatt, the Hincliffe sidekick. To make it yet more confusing, he also has retailing connections. His cousin Paul is chairman of UNO, another furniture company. Rosenblatt the lawyer would greatly appreciate it if calls for his namesake could desist.

MY CONGRATULATIONS to Christopher Pope, chairman of Eldridge Pope and a very amiable host, who has been elected Master of the Worshipful Company of Brewers. One catch, though, Eldridge Pope is no longer a brewer, having sold its Dorchester brewery 18 months ago. However, Pope has for some years been on track to become Master, a largely automatic process that it takes more than a little detail like this to derail.

Ram raid

STILL among the beerge, the annual meeting of Young's next week looks to be the most exciting since the management pulled the plug on the drunken debauches that used

to accompany such occasions by switching the venue from the brewery itself. Guinness Peat Group, which holds a 7 per cent stake, is trying to dismantle the antiquated share structure that keeps the 400-year-old Ram Brewery firmly under the control of the Young family.

GPG reckons Young's is a fuddy-duddy old brewer whose myriad of share classes prevent it from realising its full stock market potential. As a local, I must take issue. There are few enough small, independent breweries without having another one disappear. Anyway, the winds of change are already blowing through Young's, alas. The company is launching a trendy new bar concept, the lamentably named Ram Ba Ba.

MARTIN WALLER



Tradition thrives at Young's

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Table of unit trust prices for various funds including ABN UNIT TRUSTS, ABN EQUITY & LAW UNIT TRUSTS, ABN LIFE FUND UNIT TRUSTS, ABN PENSION UNIT TRUSTS, ABN REAL ESTATE UNIT TRUSTS, ABN RISK MANAGEMENT UNIT TRUSTS, ABN SAVING UNIT TRUSTS, ABN SHORT TERM UNIT TRUSTS, ABN STRATEGIC UNIT TRUSTS, ABN TECHNOLOGY UNIT TRUSTS, ABN WORLDWIDE UNIT TRUSTS.

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Equities claw back early losses

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Table of stock prices for various sectors including ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, BANKS, BREWERIES, PUBS & REST, BUILDING MATERIALS, CHEMICALS, CONSTRUCTION, DISTRIBUTORS, and DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS.

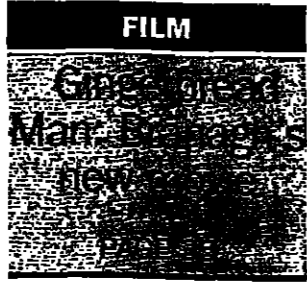
Table of stock prices for various sectors including ENGINEERING, VEHICLES, FOOD MANUFACTURERS, HEALTHCARE, HOUSEHOLD GOODS & TEXT, and INVESTMENT TRUSTS.

Table of stock prices for various sectors including MEDIA, MINING, OIL & GAS, LEISURE & HOTELS, BRITISH FUNDS, and SHORTS (under 5 years).

Table of stock prices for various sectors including OTHER FINANCIAL, PHARMACEUTICALS, PRINTING & PAPER, PROPERTY, TELECOMMUNICATIONS, TRANSPORT, WATER, RETAILERS, FOOD, and RETAILERS, GENERAL.

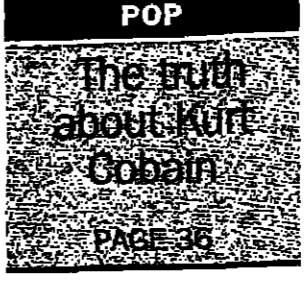
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FILM

THE TIMES ARTS



POP

The truth about Kurt Cobain

PAGE 36

RECOMMENDED TODAY

Guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Mark Hargre

LONDON

BBC PROMS: Mystery and magic are high on the agenda in this year's concert series which kicks off tonight (7.30pm) with Berlioz's dramatic cantata The Damnation of Faust.



Kiri Te Kanawa sings the lead in Glyndebourne's Capriccio

be repeated in the BBC Proms on Sunday, Aug 23 (7.30pm).

GLYNDEBOURNE: Kiri Te Kanawa sings the role of the Countess in John Cox's 1973 production of Richard Strauss's elegant Capriccio.

Andrew Davis conducts a cast which also includes Jennifer Rhys Davies and Bronwen Morgan.

Glyndebourne Opera House (01273 81313). Tomorrow, 5.30pm.

LANCASTER: Williamson Park is turned into jungle, ocean and prairie for the promenade performance of Philip Poyry's hectic travel Around the World in Eighty Days.

Dulverton Playhouse (01524 66645). Opens tonight, 7.15pm.

ELSEWHERE

BIRMINGHAM: Simon Rattle opens his first summer as music director of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra with a concert performance of Richard Strauss's exotic opera Ariadne auf Naxos.

NEW WEST END SHOWS

Jeremy Kingston's choice of theatre showing in London

- THE MAN WHO CAME TO DINNER: The Chicago-based Steppenwolf Company brings the classic Kaufman and Hart comedy to London. With John Mahoney (0171-432 3000).
RICHARD III: Oddsodds return with their bizarre two-person version of Shakespeare, part text, part drumming. See review, p.16. (0171-251 1211).
AFTER DAWNING: Timberlake Wertenbaker's absorbing latest: Lindsay Frazier directs Jason Watkins and Dawn and Michael Feast as Captain Fitzroy of the Beagle. Hampstead, NW3 (0171-722 9301).
HERAKLES: Memorial production of Euripides' tragedy in the later Kenneth McMillan's translation. Gate, W11 (0171-222 0703).
OKLAHOMA!: The well-known musical by Rodgers and Hammerstein. Hugh Jackman and Maureen Lipman as Aunt Eller. Trevor Nunn directs. National (Olivier), (0171-432 3000).
WHISTLE DOWN THE WIND: Andrew Davis's surprisingly disappointing new musical, relocated to America's Blue Belt. Stars Marcus Lovett and Louise Mayor. Gale Edwards (0171-416 8002).
DOCTOR DOLITTLE: Philip Schofield plays the man who can talk to animals in the Lucie Arnott musical. Shaftesbury Theatre, W1 (0171-416 8045).
SHAKESPEARE'S WILLIAMS: Steven Berkoff's one-man show of many villains. Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (0171-830 8800).

FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE

- NEW RELEASES: BARNETT'S GREAT ADVENTURE (U): Blatant and wily adventures of Barney the friendly purple dinosaur; great for very small children. With Trevor Morgan, Diana Pico, and a man in a big lily suit.
GOZZILLA (PG): The giant lizard trashes Manhattan in a torridy cold and brutal blockbuster. Director, Roland Emmerich.
THE LITTLE MERMAID (U): Revival of Disney's bright and buoyant animated fairy-tale about mermaid Ariel who falls for a human. Acceptable family fare.
LIFE IS ALL YOU GET (18): Engaging, feet-footed German comedy about love, unemployment and dysfunctional family life in Berlin. With Jürgen Vogel and Christiane Paul. Director, Wolfgang Becker.
THE TRIP (15): Absorbing, semi-comic Russian drama about a young boy's life in the 1950s with his young mother and a substitute father, a small-time thief. Directed by Pavel Chukhrai.
CURRENT: GREASE (PG): John Travolta struts again at Rydell High in this revised of the 1978 movie based on the stage success. Not quite a golden oldie, but good fun for pop culture vultures. With Olivia Newton-John.
KISS OR KILL (18): Fresh Australian treatment of the old story about the outlaw couple on the run, full of unexpected humour and sharp characterisations. Bill Bennett directs.
LOVE & DEATH ON LONG ISLAND (15): Reclusive writer John Hurt falls for American love movie hunk Jason Patric in this well-timed comedy that grows fun. Director, Richard Linklater.
POINT BLANK (15): Lee Marvin's criminal skills past associates like an evening angel. Welcome revival of John Boorman's cool, stylish thriller.
SLING BLADE (15): Powerful portrait of a mentally deficient man trying to blend into ordinary life after 20 years behind bars for killing his mother. Riveting performance by Billy Bob Thornton, who also directs.

Gold in that there corn

Whatever its desire for a big bang at the box office, should the National be giving over its Olivier auditorium to Rodgers and Hammerstein's musical for the rest of this long, cold summer? That question, which has been asked a lot of late, is now answered by a production that should bounce, beguile and (at times) biff the most grudgingly into agreeing that the show is worth a slot anywhere from Sydney Opera House to the Moscow Art Theatre. As the song says: Oklahoma! OK. We know that back in 1943 Oklahoma! refreshed the American musical with its simplicity, its geographic outreach, its near-seamless blend of dialogue, song and dance. Many of us can not only hum Oh, What a Beautiful Morning, Surrey with the Fringe on Top and several other numbers but, thanks to their plain yet deft wording, remember the lyrics too. Yet there are problems facing director Trevor Nunn. Too much hooky, Oakie folksiness, and the piece can become bland and sentimental. Moreover, isn't the supposed villain, Jud Fry, more interesting and sympathetic to a contemporary audience than the supposed hero, the crusty named Curly? Well, all such worries are banished in this robust yet subtle revival. As soon as the



Jimmy Johnston (Will Parker) lassoes Josefina Gabrielle (Laurey) and Hugh Jackman (Curly) in the NT's great new show

lights rise on a desolate arc of prairie reaching to the sky, we realise that civilisation in Oklahoma territory is tenuous. The railroad station is still being built and, as designed by Anthony Ward, the farmhouses have a precarious, makeshift look. The local judge, ancestor of a modern American millionaire, sits meekly fingering his shotgun, and there is far more energy than cuteness throughout the cast. Indeed, the farmers and cowmen, rivals for ownership of the land, prove it with a more-than-balletic rumble at a schoolhouse-raising party. Altogether, there is an unfinished, insecure feel to the place that extends to the characters played by the most artistically complete principals I have seen in any musical: Hugh Jackman's Curly and the girl he disputes with Jud, Josefina Gabrielle's Laurey. They are a dreamy, touching pair who repressed longings they express first obliquely, then openly, in a superb rendering of People Will Say We're in Love. You certainly feel more for them than for Jud, in Shuler Hensley's forlorn yet impressively

Lyrical echoes of Derek Jarman

One doesn't have to be deeply cynical to raise an eyebrow when yet another piece of crossover music comes along in what might be termed a concert of the recording. But only a hardened cynic could fail to have been moved by Donna McKeivitt's Translucence, a haunting new work of unpretentious honesty that captures perfectly the mood of the moment. Translucence, given its premiere as part of the counter-tenor Michael Chance's City of London Festival recital, is indeed soon to be released by Teldec, and it would be surprising if some of the numbers did not go into the classical charts - they deserve a place there. Ironically, Classic FM sensibilities may be strained by the explicit texts of a few numbers and titles, in particular one set to a dozen poems by the late Derek Jarman. Nobody can possibly have any problems with the centrepiece, Sebastiane, set in Latin like Jarman's film of the same name. A sustained lament, it was sung smoothly by Chance to the accompaniment of viola and cello. This pair of strings (Catherine Manson and Caroline Dale) supply the only instrumental colour in an austere work, which is also scored

RECITAL

for three female voices, here Kelly McCusker, Melanie Pappenheim and McKeivitt. If McKeivitt did not seem to be tapping into the ethereal sound-world of "medieval babes" and the like, the "crossover" label would be misleading; she writes in an uncomplicated yet never predictable musical language that matches the atmosphere of the poems. The work has a unity that suggests a secular Stations of the Cross, even though some of Jarman's outbursts are angry rather than meditative. Such a match of music and words is where Geoffrey Burgon's Lunar Ballet, for counter-tenor and lute (Jacob Herrington), falls short: the bitter-sweet music is effective in its way, but fails to equal the imagery of Auden's poems. It also paled next to the Dowland lute songs with which Chance began this intense evening on the theme of life, loss and love.

JOHN ALLISON

Drum and base instincts

I know we live in post-modern times but to precede even such a mould-breaking version of Shakespeare as this one with ten minutes of S-natra ballads is pushing the bizarre to its outer edge. After a while one searches for deeper meaning even in the meaningless. Was it ambition that got under Gloucester's skin? Did love and marriage to the widowed Anne go together like a coffin and hearse? The Shakespeare would have been broken into jokey fragments before, but John Mowat's production for Oddbodies, performed by the company's other two members, Paul de Ville Morel and Tanaya Scott-Wilson - what splendid names some people have!

of dark glasses, draws a pair of drumsticks like a dagger from his pocket and embarks on the first of his many sessions at the percussion. These cleverly varied passages build up excitement, suggest all manner of emotions from general turbulence to grief, indicate time passing and are obviously ideal for providing the alarms of war. Mowat weaves them into the spoken sections well enough, and the play itself, severely trimmed, still keeps the main line of the plot. What it fails to do is offer more than a sketch of any character. Estuary-talking Richard is reduced to a man turned villain because he was born malformed, but since Morel plays him mump-

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Staki in the

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Theatre is booming. And it's broke

So British theatre — thumping success or dismal disaster? *All's Well That Ends Well* or *Hearbreak House*? The answer appears to be yes. At least, that is what this foggy old brain deduces from two new reports that paint disconcertingly different pictures of thespians.

Last week it was all gloom from the National Campaign for the Arts. In *Theatre in Crisis: The Plight of Regional Theatre* it waits in debt to a tune of £10 million; that ticket prices have doubled in a decade; and that the theatres are producing fewer plays, with smaller casts, than ever before.

Even the debt-stricken Royal Shakespeare Company has cut its casts to the level at which "Cymbeline led a British army of three into battle against the Romans". Three? In most rep theatres a three-man army would seem a fantastical extravagance. Meanwhile, the National Theatre, £1.5 million in debt, is reduced to sending begging letters from the actress Fiona Shaw to its patrons. Grim tidings. But hold that

shroud! No sooner does one finish reading this prolonged sob-story than the *Wyndham Report* plops onto the doormat with a self-satisfied thwack. What an astonishing document. It's a glossy economic survey of West End theatre, compiled for the Society of London Theatre by Tony Travers of the London School of Economics, but it reads more like a bulletin from some wartime propaganda unit. You know the sort of thing: "322 enemy aircraft shot down, and not a single British casualty!"

West End theatre is apparently a "billion-pound industry", supporting 41,000 jobs. It attracts nearly three times as many punters as all London's football clubs put together. Its most successful products — *Phantom and Cats* — have each earned far more worldwide than *Titanic*, the most profitable film in Hollywood history. West End theatre's trade surplus far outstrips that of the British film and

television industries combined... and so this rosy literary continues. Some of it is inspired hogwash, of course. West End theatre can only be counted as a "billion-pound industry", for instance, by assuming that theatre-goers will also spend a small fortune on transport, meals, booze and hotels. And yes, *Phantom* and *Cats* have been rice little earners, but that only begs the question of whether the West End has become dangerously over-dependent on whiskery British mega-musicals that have largely had their day, especially with Disney now assaulting that market with sleekly hyped film spin-offs.

Even so, the *Wyndham Report* is a startlingly upbeat portrait to offset the ghastly tales of dereliction told in *Theatre in Crisis*. The danger is that those who hate the notion of arts subsidy will leap on this stark contrast as evidence that theatre flourishes best when left

short, to Britain's reputation for world-beating theatre.

So it is worrying to see so many disparate forces stacked against them. First, many local authorities are only grudgingly supportive or actively hostile. What is it about town councils that attracts the country's dreariest philistines? Secondly, regional theatres receive only sporadic press coverage. To some theatre critics a "trip up north" appears to mean a night at the King's Head, Islington.

And thirdly, regional theatre can't often attract big-name actors, and that's fatal in an age when people see stars on TV every night. The interest generated by Jude Kelly's coup — persuading Sir Ian McKellen to lead three classic plays at the West Yorkshire Playhouse this autumn — only emphasises how rarely theatrical giants work in the regions.

However, the decline in the Arts

Council's subsidy must be considered the biggest threat. "But wait!" you cry. "Hasn't Chris Smith just won loads of extra lolly for culture? Surely some of that will be sprinkled on regional theatre?"

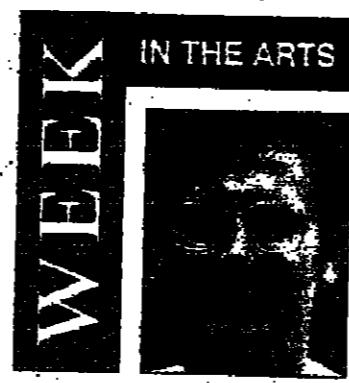
Possibly, but the signs aren't good. On Tuesday (the very day that the Government announced its spending plans) the House of Lords debated regional theatres. Two speeches were ominous. The first came from Labour's very "on message" cultural tsar, Lord Putnam (that's Lord Putnam of Much-Slighted-by-the-Bee, as he is now known). He agreed that things can't go on as they are in regional theatres, but said that the future lay in "partnerships" with local authorities and the private sector. In other words, don't bank on Arts Council subsidy.

And his words were reinforced by the Government's spokesman, Lord McIntosh of Haringey, who tartly noted that the £20 million

which the Arts Council allocates to regional theatre is a "not insignificant" sum. Oh really? It is precisely what it costs to run one Formula One car for one season. But divided among 60 regional theatres, duckie, it ain't a lot.

I can't understand this reluctance to invest in regional theatre. The sums involved are paltry compared with the cost, say, of reopening certain opera houses. The benefits in widening access are enormous: many regional houses have been spectacularly successful at attracting young and ethnically diverse new audiences. And regional theatres frequently deliver top-class productions that win international acclaim.

All this would be at risk if regional theatres were devolved into the hands of local politicians and businessmen. To my surprise, I find myself siding with the whingeing luvvies. If the West End is the golden egg of British culture, then regional theatre is the goose. Kill it off and you might as well flog Shaftesbury Avenue to Disney tomorrow. No, no. Chancellor, I was only joking.



RICHARD MORRISON

entirely to commercial managers. But as *Wyndham* points out, the picture is much more complex. The West End depends on the subsidised sector to nurture new plays and future stars. In fact the regional reps are vital to this "billion-pound industry". Vital, in



SUSAN GRAY/REX

Kenneth Branagh hopes to win commercial credibility with *The Gingerbread Man*, opening in Britain next week

Staking a claim in the Wild West

Robert Altman calls Kenneth Branagh "the best actor I've ever worked with", which is some compliment given the coterie of fine American thespians the maverick film-maker has directed. Branagh has evidently heard this before, to judge by the unsurprised tone of his response: "Well, that's very nice of him but he loves actors you know. He sort of has crushes on his actors."

Altman is high on Branagh's performance as a Savannah lawyer in *The Gingerbread Man*, the first John Grisham film which is not based on a book — it's an original Grisham screenplay. The film is Branagh's attempt to heighten his commercial viability in Hollywood. And to judge by the morning TV show he appeared on just hours before sitting down to talk at a Los Angeles hotel, Branagh's American recognition factor is not terribly buoyant. The *View* is morning TV for American housewives, hosted by women with names like Star who introduced their guest as "Kenneth Brannach". Branagh neither flinched nor corrected them.

"You're so rabbit in the headlights about the whole thing," he laughs. "You've got a wire up your arse and there's just this tremendous pressure to be relaxed and funny. Anyway, I thought they were very nice girls." Promotion is the price he has to pay to make himself known.

Branagh won't quite admit to "going Hollywood", only that "a little more identification with things that seem a little more obviously commercial is probably no bad thing

Like or loathe it, Kenneth Branagh just can't stay away from Hollywood. Lesley O'Toole found out why

for someone like me." It is not that Branagh wants to be a Hollywood movie star, rather that broadening his appeal to American audiences might facilitate that all-important financing of the less overtly commercial projects he really wants to make.

Having enjoyed the ingenious plotting of previous Grisham film adaptations, Branagh was very interested but wanted a film replete with rather more than the conventional Grisham elements: courtrooms and fancy lawyers. He chose to wait until a director was hired, hopefully one who would shake it up.

So when Altman signed on, so did Branagh. The really difficult part of doing the mainstream thing well, he says, is finding something that operates in a genre which has some intelligence or wit and is satisfying, but doesn't feel as if it has formula or franchise written all over it.

While Altman was shaking up the Grisham cocktail, Branagh set about perfecting what is on film an impeccable Southern accent. Speaking the dialogue was challenging enough; improvising proved more troubling. "You've got to watch it with kids and animals, of course, but Christ, I had them both in the same

scene. And then Bob said, 'Okay, Branagh, as you walk down with the kids, just say stuff. But say good stuff, OK? Can you imagine!'"

The Gingerbread Man was shot in Savannah, Georgia, rather than Hollywood, where Branagh says he has spent very little time. When he did make a film in Hollywood, *Dead Again*, he didn't like the change the place effected in him. "I knew it was time to leave when I was reading the Hollywood trade papers every day and kind of back to front. I had become a kind of encyclopedia about what was going on. It was like a drug."

After filming *The Gingerbread Man*, Branagh completed *The Woody Allen Fall Project*, and clearly captivated a second iconic American director since "only Judy Davis and me got the whole script". Branagh was unaware that Allen is famous for giving actors only their scenes, never a whole script — "I had no idea it was a big deal." The film, now titled *Celebrity*, was "never less than a fascinating experience" and "a big scary do" featuring the likes of Winona Ryder and Leonardo DiCaprio. "They would say things like, 'Well, what does my character do? You know, where have I come from? and

Simon Tait meets the man putting music back on the education agenda

The sweet sound of learning

There is a crucial element in arts management which we ignore at our peril, believes Gavin Henderson. He calls it the "Snuff Factor", pretty much a primeval force which draws people to enjoy their culture in the company of others. It is why there will always be live audiences for great art (just as there are for great football); and it is why arts education is at least as much about what happens in the street as what happens in the classroom.

As Principal of Trinity College of Music and director of Dartington Summer School, but also as chairman of the Arts Council's music panel, erstwhile director of the Brighton Festival and now chairman of the new Youth Music Trust, Henderson is at the crux where "high" and "popular" art are supposed to meet. His new appointment to the Youth Music Trust could be a defining one in exploiting our musical resources for the benefit of the current learning generation, if he gets it right.

But the sun has been shining on Henderson this year. He has received £30 million of lottery money for the Youth Music Trust, last week it was announced that Trinity is to move into the Royal Naval College, Greenwich; the 50th Dartington school is this Au-



Gavin Henderson: Youth Music Trust chairman

gust and it is expanding to six weeks and is to start a touring programme; the West Pier in Brighton, of which he is president, was recently saved with a £15 million lottery grant. He borrows his motto from Cocteau: "A little too much is just enough for me."

Last October he was digging potatoes in his own Brighton back garden and pondering what, as an Arts Council member, to do about music education. "I suddenly realised that I had no way of getting to David Blunkett, and I was learning on my spade dwelling on the problem when who should walk into the next door garden but David

Blunkett." Henderson and the Education Secretary fell into earnest discussion. "I'm not going to tell you what he said, but it is how I know he is absolutely committed to music education," Henderson says.

What will the Youth Music Trust do to get music back into the classroom? "The answer is, nothing directly because our responsibility is not inside the classroom. Our job will be to look at music learning outside schools and how to push it forward," he says.

What we cannot do is let the education department off the hook, but I am convinced of Blunkett's commitment and that we will be hearing something from him very soon. Like everyone else, I was worried by music apparently being removed from primary education as a compulsory part of the national curriculum in January, but I think we have seen that the effects of that have been overemphasised.

The YMT is to get £10 million of lottery money a year for three years to support and develop music teaching. Although it was the Arts Council chairman, Gerry Robinson, who personally took the decision to allocate the money, the trust will operate separately and Henderson has relinquished his Arts Council membership accordingly.

Other trustees include Elton John, Simon Rattle, Mick Hucknall, Lesley Garrett and Richard Stilgoe, names chosen for their supposed credibility with the young from all backgrounds, but there is no chief executive yet, no staff, no address. When it is up and running, though, it will be clearing house for extra-curriculum music teaching resources, encouraging innovation in instrument and choral teaching, and raising money.

"The picture nationally is uneven," Henderson says. "There are some terrific things being done in some places while there is practically nothing happening in others. We will be a balancing agency, and an important part of what we do will be leverage. But the money is paltry — we will need nearer £100 million a year than £10 million."

By the time the Youth Music Trust is in full swing, Henderson's attention will be distracted by the enormous task of shifting Trinity and 560 students from Marylebone to the oldest quarter of the Greenwich complex, the King Charles Building. The move has to be completed by the summer of 2001. "We need to get students involved in the community, and the opportunities in Greenwich are enormous."

EXCLUSIVE READER OFFER THE TIMES

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CHANGING TIMES

POP OPINION
Cobain misrepresented

Courtney is entitled to be furious

Nick Broomfield's documentary about grunge's ill-fated first couple is a despicable travesty of the truth

Arrogant! The cinema in Islington is playing *Kurt and Courtney*. Nick Broomfield's "documentary" on grunge's Richard and Judy. Six people mill around outside; you can tell why they have come from their shoes. The fella in the Hush Puppies is here because it's a Broomfield film. He will have seen *Heldi Fleiss: Hollywood Madam* and Broomfield's fabulous winding up of Eugene Terre Blanche in *The Leader, His Driver and The Driver's Wife*. He won't really know who Courtney Love is, but he will have heard of "The Nirvana".

The other five are girls: in battered pink and white shoes with diamante on the sides; or little bows; or sequins. These girls are here because the film is about Kurt and Courtney. They are Nirvana and Hole fans. They have no idea who Broomfield is. It's because of curious grunge aficionados like this that *Kurt and Courtney* is Broomfield's biggest film by a long chalk: UK and US cinema release, and one of



CAITLIN MORAN

cheap poster — are a waste of ink: the first is wrong and the second is plain stupid. There is no "truth" revealed in *Kurt and Courtney*. The majority of Broomfield's interviewees are liars, drug-addicts and fantasists. Although Broomfield acknowledges this to be the case with several of them, his lack of knowledge about rock music allows several others to slip through his net.

One of Kurt's "oldest friends", for instance, who testifies against Courtney, shows photographs of Cobain she took six months before his death, to prove how close she was. Unfortunately, the pictures are quite clearly shots taken by a *Melody Maker* photographer and used on the cover of its Christmas issue.

Broomfield's conclusion about the murder theories are also, almost wilfully, perverse: after an hour of indulging various smackheads' ramblings, Broomfield feebly declares that he doesn't believe Cobain was murdered at all; but was "driven to murder himself".

Hmmmm. Well, for anyone who's done more than listen to *Smells Like Teen Spirit* when it comes on Virgin 1215FM's *Loud Hour*, it was obvious Cobain didn't need driving anywhere. He was the most foreseeable suicide since Ian Curtis. One of the first songs he ever wrote was called *Sea-side Suicide*. He was a paranoid junkie with a big collec-



Kurt Cobain (performing in 1993) and Courtney Love they fought like cat and dog, but were genuinely committed to each other in their own odd way



tion of guns, who posed for publicity photos with a gun in his mouth, who had already attempted suicide three months before, and who wanted to call his last album *I Hate Myself And I Want To Die*.

He called his band Nirvana because, to him, it meant "total peace after death". Anyone reading either the Christopher Sandford or Michael Azzerad books about Nirvana — which, unlike Broomfield's film, contain interviews from

family, friends, band members and insiders — will be left in little doubt that Love actually kept Cobain alive longer than he expected to be.

And as for "The Film Courtney Doesn't Want You To See!" — well, that's rather like selling jam with a sticker reading "The jar of jam Courtney doesn't want you to smear all over her carpet!" Of course Courtney doesn't want you to see the film: half a dozen liars and her estranged,

publicity-hungry father claim she murdered her clearly suicidal husband.

The tragedy of *Kurt and Courtney* is that it markets itself as a fearless expose of the heart of darkness at the core of the rock world, etc etc etc; but Broomfield doesn't come up with — and excuse me for using a technical term here — the slightest bit of evidence. A disturbing misogyny also runs through the film. Evidence of Love's harridan ways, for in-

stance, rests on her threatening of journalists. A tape of Love screaming at a female journalist is broadcast with a "told you so" air; and later, when Broomfield berates the American Council For Civil Liberties for their "hypocrisy" in lauding Love, it is on the basis of these tapes. However, Broomfield never addresses the small problem that Cobain is equally vocal in these tapes: it is Cobain who threatens to "throw out a bit of money and

have you [the journalist] sniffed out".

The truth is that both Love and Cobain had dysfunctional childhoods. Bordered over drugs, fought like cat and dog, but were committed to each other in their own odd way. Perhaps the best critique of *Kurt and Courtney* comes from Cobain himself. "I don't think anyone over 31 will ever be able to understand me," he said in 1994. At 50, Broomfield never had a chance.

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ARTS

LIVE GIGS
Folk for the future

LIVE GIGS: One girl and her magic fiddle; Africa's international superstar; and blues fans dancing in the aisles

The reel thing, folks

Not content with reinvigorating the centuries-old tradition of British folk music, Eliza Carthy is almost single-handedly attempting to modernise the genre and take it into the next millennium as well.

Hence the virtuoso fiddler's recent album *Red Rice* is a two-pronged affair. One CD features faithfully rendered jigs, reels and traditional songs, while the other is an experimental cross-breed of English folk tunes with dub, jazz and even drum'n'bass grooves. Carthy respects the past too much to let it stagnate.

Similarly this was a gig of two halves, which despite the differences in approach were both equally engaging. For the first, Carthy was accompanied by the accomplished accordion player Saul Rose, while after the interval they were joined by a three-piece band whose electric guitar, bass and drums swung the pendulum towards something approaching folk-rock.

And yet no glib categorisation could do justice to the fresh, energising sound these musicians make together



Eliza Carthy merges past and present in her music

when in full flight. Carthy is the undisputed star of the show however, whirling around the stage in joyous communion with her instrument, which she plays with passion and precision.

Her stage manner is warm and unpretentious, which is all the more laudable when one considers that her parents,

Martina Carthy and Norma Waterson, are bona fide folk legends in their own right.

This concert was her first in Dublin as a solo artist and served as a preamble to the sundry summer folk festivals throughout the UK. Although the attendance was disappointing — no more than a hundred or so — the sheer enthusiasm and charisma of Carthy and her band remained undimmed.

Swedish and French-Canadian reels were interspersed with some of her own, such as *Kingston Girls*, while a cover of Ben Harper's despairing *cri de coeur, Walk Away*, showcased Carthy as a singer of considerable emotional depth.

But the highlight of the evening had to be her version of an old mournful ballad irresistibly titled *The Americans Have Stolen My True Love Away* and, during the encore, an unaccompanied rendition of the epic narrative, *The Banks Of Claudy*, which seemed to cast an almost other-worldly spell over the rapt audience.

NICK KELLY

Shades of big brothers

It would be easy to dismiss the whole *Blues Brothers* phenomenon as a hype-driven commercial venture which has little to do with the state of modern blues. But that would be a misjudgment. True, this concert was very much of a nostalgia kick. But at least half the audience were not born when these songs were first recorded, and to have them presented by the men who created them in the first place — guitarist and composer Steve Cropper, bass player Duck Dunn and songwriter and vocalist Eddie Floyd, along with a three-piece brass section, drummer and keyboards player — made it more than just a revival night.

OK, we had to put up with a singer dressed in full *Blues Brothers* regalia, but Tommy McDonnell was a fine vocalist who, before Floyd came on stage, acquitted himself well on *Gimme Some Lovin'*, *Looking For A Fox and Messin' With The Kid* — a tribute to the late Junior Wells, who died soon after his career appear-



ance in the *Blues Brothers 2000* movie.

He also had the advantage, of course, of a backing band to die for. Cropper, whose pivotal role in the Stax studios in Memphis in the Sixties is at last being acknowledged, looked a little less sleek than he did when he backed Otis Redding, while Dunn was almost unrecognisable as the fresh-faced youngster seen in those early pictures of Booker T and the MGs.

But that didn't stop them laying down what have become classic guitar and bass lines for such soul standards as *Soul Man*, *Land of 1000 Dances* and *Soulfinger*. Guest vocalist Floyd relived his greatest Stax moments too with *Raise Your Hand*, *Big Bird* and an extended version of his greatest hit, *Knock On Wood*.

JOHN CLARKE

Show of strength



A couple of years ago LWT's *South Bank Show* devoted an hour-long programme to Baaba Maal, built around the premise that here potentially was Africa's first international superstar. At the Festival Hall the Senegalese singer proved once again that no one fuses the tribal rhythms of Africa and contemporary rock grooves with more style and commercial power. He has a voice of wondrous suppleness, an abundance of charisma and passion and his new album, *Nomad Soul*, is an Afro-punk masterpiece. So why is he not a household name outside world music circles? The answer seems to be simply that he does not sing in English.

In April I saw Maal play two memorable shows in tiny desert villages in northern Senegal for his own nomadic Fulani people. How would he capture the same atmosphere in a Western concert hall? In the event, he adopted a radical-

ly different approach for a European audience. With a troupe of a dozen musicians and four dancers this was showtime. A thunderous percussive introduction greeted Maal's arrival, resplendent in traditional robes as he launched into the explosive *Mbolo*, the bass, guitar, keyboards and horns of Western rock complemented by African talking drums and the kora. They danced on stage and he took the tempo down briefly with *Koni*, a children's lullaby learnt at his grandmother's knee, and the gentle *Cherie* from the new album. Then it was back to the dance grooves with *Souka Nayo*, on which Maal's troupe was joined by the haunting voices of Sinead O'Connor's backing singers.

Earlier the veteran Ernest Ranglin had played a spell-binding set of jazzy grooves. The legendary Jamaican guitarist who practically invented reggae recently travelled to Senegal to explore his African roots and to record his new album, *In Search Of The Last Riddim*. His jazz trio was joined on stage by members of Maal's band as together they embarked on a thrilling voyage down the musical trade routes of the African diaspora, which set the tone perfectly for Maal's triumph.

NIGEL WILLIAMSON

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Treasures well worth uncovering

SPARKLEHORSE Good Morning Spider (Parlophone 7243 4 96014 £15.99) ONE of those intriguing groups that tend to surface during the quiet season for releases...

NEW POP ALBUMS

bled Girl to the vibrant drum'n'bass hustle of New Reality. At the heart of the matter is a voice which effortlessly conjures a cool combination of soul and jazz-noir inflections...

(double bass) and Luke Parkhouse (drums), who use the inhumanly fast rhythmic contortions of drum'n'bass (devised, of course, on drum machines) as the template for some sensationally dextrous and original passages on Loveless and Planetaria.

TRANSISTER Transister (Virgin 7243 8 45065 £13.99) HAVING spent a career in the foothills of pop with Scottish band Darryl Wilson and then as a solo act, Gary Clark has developed a pretty keen weather eye for spotting trends.

4 HERO Two Pages (Talkin' Loud/Mercury 558 462; two discs £15.99) NURTURED by the same record label which this time last year brought us Roni Size and Reprazent, 4 hero is one of many aliases adopted by the pair of drum'n'bass producers Dego and Mark Mac from West London.

KAREN RAMIREZ Distant Dreams (Manifesto/Mercury 558 674 £12.49) SHE owes her current Top Ten chart status to her seductive version of an old Everything But The Girl song, Looking For Love. But Karen Ramirez has plenty of new ideas of her own to offer.

Unfortunately, their otherwise promising self-titled debut has been resoundingly beaten to the punch by Garbage's second album, and sounds rather lacking in originality as a result.



Is it a man or a group? Meet Mark Linkous, the highly acceptable face of Sparklehorse

POP INTERVIEW Eagle-Eye focused

One part bird and the rest pure star He came from Sweden to conquer the world. Now Eagle-Eye Cherry is talking to Nigel Williamson

What price Stockholm as the new musical Mecca? Once Sweden was famous only as the home of Abba and au pairs, but now it seems that every major label is promoting a Swedish signing. The Cardigans and the Wannadies, the teen pop of Robyn, Kent, Kometta, Lisa Ekdahl and Ebba Forsberg have all made international breakthroughs, or have albums that are on the point of doing so.

helped to mark him out. "My Dad was on tour when I was born. He came home and I opened one eye and looked at him and he called me Eagle-Eye. There were moments when I wanted to be Sven or something, but I am surprised I didn't get more hassle. But I was always different. In Sweden I was the only coloured kid in the class. In America I was the only Swedish country boy in Brooklyn."



Eagle-Eye Cherry: crazy name, burgeoning talent

Yet his father, who played with everyone from Ornette Coleman to Sonny Rollins, bequeathed him more than an unusual name. "He taught me not to settle for less. You can see when you read people's lyrics that they have a really good verse and chorus and then two half-farsed verses. I'm not satisfied with that. I try to find a way of telling a story and then tie it up at the end."

CDs reviewed in The Times can be ordered from the Times Music Shop on 0345 023498

TOP TEN ALBUMS

- 1 (1) Hello Nasty...Beastie Boys (Grand Royal) 2 (2) Talk on Corners...Corrs (Atlantic) 3 (3) Postcards From Heaven/Lighthouse Family (Wild Card) 4 (7) The Good Will Out...Embrace (Hut) 5 (4) Life Thru a Lens...Robbie Williams (Chrysalis) 6 (-) Jane McDonald...Jane McDonald (Focus Music Int) 7 (9) Urban Hymns...Verve (Hut) 8 (6) Sine...Simply Red (East West) 9 (8) International Velvet...Catalonia (Bianco y Negro) 10 (10) Left of the Middle...Natalie Imbruglia (RCA)

Bouncy best of British

NEWTON/TRACEY BAND Bootleg Eric (ASC CD23) SPECIALLY commissioned by Wakefield Jazz Club to celebrate its tenth anniversary, this suite, written by pianist Dave Newton and drummer Clark Tracey, receives a rousingly informal yet musically workout on this live album, recorded at the club last April.

JAZZ ALBUMS

robustness, epitomised by Weller's wonderfully bleary tenor, and an elegant gracefulness exemplified by Barnes's agile clarinet and Newton's lambent piano.

NICHOLAS PAYTON Payton's Place (Nerve 557 327-2) NEW ORLEANS trumpeter Nicholas Payton has been regarded as something of a traditionalist, but on this, his third album as leader, he has consciously attempted to capture his sparky young band's thoroughly contemporary, fleet, bright live sound, allowing them "just to come into the studio and do whatever felt right".

Fellow trumpeters Wynton Marsalis and Roy Hargrove jostle enjoyably with Payton on some selections, but for the most part the album sounds like a club set, with Payton's band caught in particularly hard-swinging but relaxed mood.

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Advertisement for Gwyneth Paltrow's 'Sliding Doors'. Features a black and white photo of Paltrow and the text 'SIGHS DO MATTER' and 'DOORS STILL OPEN'. Credit: CHRIS PARKER.

media times

A most unusual tabloid

Helen Rumbelow
on two editors
who crackle

Most of what you need to know about the editors of *Tabloid* is in how they met, digging for dirt at a Michael Jackson concert in Prague. This tells you about their nose for outrage, their sense of the absurd, their obsession with bizarre animals, but not that their paper is an unusual experiment in modern journalism.

Tabloid is a newspaper on the Internet that revels in its contrariness. It is a tabloid — the genre usually notorious for being ignorant or hostile to a world beyond its backyard — that is filled with foreign news. It is a tabloid — traditionally aimed at those with an attention span seconds lower than a Page 3 Girls bus stop — but it advertises itself for "intelligent people".

It is a tabloid in homage to the chutzpah of its British equivalents, which has onwards of 100,000 American readers and causes intense interest among American media watchers. And it is a tabloid that uses technology to move beyond the tabloids of the present and in so doing harks back to the old-fashioned values of tabloids past.

"It takes a while for readers to figure out what we are," says Ken Layne, one of its two editors. "We are not about Hollywood stars or miracle diets or celebrity chasers. But when they do get it, our mix of world news, loudmouth columnists and strong graphic design, they are hooked."

At 32, Layne who describes himself as "a scholar and a Christian" from New Orleans arrived at *Tabloid* after reporting stints in various odd corners of Eastern Europe, including a "strange year" as owner of Macedonia's only country and western radio station. He returned to America with "deep scars in his heart" and became disillusioned with the papers that wouldn't give him a job.

Instead, with a colleague from that fateful night with Wacko Jacko, he founded his own paper in



Charles Hornberger and Ken Layne write columns that crackle and spit with righteous indignation from their cramped office

April last year, publishing on the Internet due to lack of funds. "American newspapers have managed to push away a huge news readership with bland academic reporting," says Charles Hornberger, Layne's co-editor. "But British news, and the metro daily papers we used to have in US cities, understand that the job of telling news shouldn't prevent you from being entertaining." The most striking success of *Tabloid* is in showing that foreign stories can be front-page news in a popular market. On a typical day, four of the five main news stories will be about international events. Granted, some fall into the purely comic genre along the lines of "two-

headed dog gets a divorce", but most tell gripping stories that also explain complex foreign situations. "Let them eat nothing!" screamed one headline about the new poverty in Indonesia; "More Taleban madness" was another. "Thugs gun down the ice-cream man" took a serious look at the IRA.

That this is pulled together with a motley crew of correspondents they have never met, most moonlighting from their day jobs (including a bridal magazine) all over the world, highlights just how much regular tabloids, even broadsheets, overlook foreign affairs. As Hornberger says, in the hands of the right storyteller world news isn't worthy, it's compulsive reading.

Their moral vigour is also interesting. At 27, Hornberger is younger but nonetheless cynical. "Probably raised wrong," he admits. "From their cramped office in San Francisco's seedier district, the two smoke and drink late into the night as they write columns that crackle and spit with righteous indignation."

The paper is produced according to three major principles: "Liars and bores must be punished, headlines must be extremely large, and the voice of outrage is the enemy of evil," claims a mission statement.

This is why they hold the British press in such regard. *The Economist*, for example, says Hornberger, is not afraid to have strong opinions because it knows it is right.

The tabloids also have the courage of their convictions.

"British news is hugely entertaining. They say exactly what they mean to say. Here, you get a milk-toast response to everything. I find that a shame."

This is their final strangeness: journalists who see the world in moral blacks and whites while remaining disaffected as individuals. But of course this is the most enduring of truths about reporters — the more cynical they seem, the more idealistic they are. It is what has always kept the best ones going, and despite the wired technology they use, the *Tabloid* editors model themselves on charismatic, rebellious newspapermen of old.

A new thought for the day

Orthodox Jews are celebrating the end of a perceived bias. Jason Nissé reports

RADIO 4'S *Thought for the Day* lasts only a couple of minutes at a time when most people are wolfing down their last cup of coffee. But yesterday Gerald Kaufman, MP, was joining leading figures in the Jewish community to toast victory in a four-year campaign to have an Orthodox rabbi included on the programme's regular panel.

Later this year, the strong Scottish tones of Y.Y. Rubenstein, a Manchester minister and Jewish chaplain to the city's students, will begin regular appearances on what is regarded as Britain's best-loved religious broadcasting spot.

The absence of Orthodox rabbis first came up four years ago when Jonathan Ordman, a cantor from Manchester, wondered why the flamboyant Lionel Blue, a member of the Reform movement, was the only rabbi to appear regularly on *Thought for the Day*.

It was not that members of the Orthodox community did not appear. Jonathan Sacks, the Chief Rabbi, is invited on twice a year, usually to mark the Jewish New Year and Passover. Two other Orthodox Jews are regulars — Penny Faust, who is president of the (rather small) Oxford Jewish community, and Clive Lawton, whose rather ambiguous position among Orthodox Jews is revealed by the fact that Radio 4 describes him as a marketing consultant. It is just that many in the Jewish community believed that the BBC had a bias against Orthodoxy and that that was why the corporation was keeping its rabbis off the programme.

Ordman took his complaint to his MP, Gerald Kaufman, who raised it with John Birt, the BBC's Director-General. Birt replied on July 6, 1994, to say that Ernest Rea, the BBC's head of religious broadcasting, "accepts there is a disparity and he is making attempts to redress the balance".

Indeed Rea did make some attempts — albeit slowly. In May 1996 he contacted Ordman, asking for a list of possible candidates. In his letter he said: "It is true that, apart from the Chief Rabbi, whose contributions are inevitably infrequent, there is no Orthodox rabbi on our list." Ominously, however, Rea concluded: "I am sure you also understand that we may well decide that some of your suggestions do not come up to scratch."

And that was just what happened. Ordman provided Rea with six names. These included Ordman himself, Rubenstein, who regularly appears on *Prayer for the Day* on Radio 4 and *Pause for Thought* on Radio 2, and Ian Goodhart, a rabbi from Leeds. Rea passed the list to Stephen Shipley, producer of *Thought for the Day*, who said none of the suggested candidates was suitable.

The process of collating the list, and rejecting all the candidates, took about two years. Last month Ordman lost patience and went back to Kaufman, who fired off two letters to Birt. Kaufman told *The Times* that it was an issue on which he would continue to press until something was done.

Only a couple of weeks ago Rea showed no sign of budging, but somebody, somewhere, has persuaded him to change his mind. The result is that Birt wrote to Kaufman this week saying that he was pleased to report that Y.Y. Rubenstein would be joining the panel on *Thought for the Day* and would be making his first appearance in the coming months.

This sudden change of tack couldn't be anything to do with trying to get the BBC licence fee increased, could it?



Rabbi Blue

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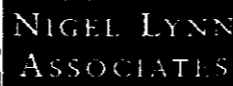
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media times

Bold Sir John rides on to the battlefield again

The past ten years have seen the BBC forced through a painful decade of transformation. But the Director-General's fight is not over yet. Raymond Snoddy reports

Sir John Birt's office at Broadcasting House has always held artefacts from the history of broadcasting such as framed, ancient copies of the *Radio Times* and a 1951 Murphy radio. But now a new artefact dominates everything — an enormous digital widescreen television set with all the electronics integrated on loan from Sony.

The sets are due to go on sale in the autumn but Sir John, the recently knighted BBC Director-General and a football fan, has been able to watch the BBC coverage of the World Cup in digital widescreen format — and he liked what he saw.

"BBC football has been really classy, whether you are talking about the panel, the commentary or the studio in Paris. You see the level of our craft skills and we are frankly beating all opposition in every department. It was a great treat for us and a great treat for the nation."

Weekend Television executive plans to leave the BBC at the end of his present contract on March 31, 2000, after 13 years at the top. But first there is the licence fee appeal, which will be based on a detailed account of how the BBC believes digital technology will progress and what services the corporation can offer.

Broadcasting is already changing faster than most people realise, according to Sir John. "I go home late at night and watch the *Nine o'Clock News* on the Internet. I watch it in America, in Australia and at home in Wandswoth on my computer," says the man who has driven the BBC into committing £1 billion in licence-fee money over five years to taking itself into all things digital.

The pictures on his Internet television set arrive at the jerky rate of two or three frames a second. But the sound is improving and, as telecommunications improve across the world, the quality of the pictures will improve.

eray's *Vanity Fair* and Dickens's *David Copperfield*. "I cannot foresee a time when the British will want a world without *The Archers* and *Blue Peter*," is how Sir John puts it.

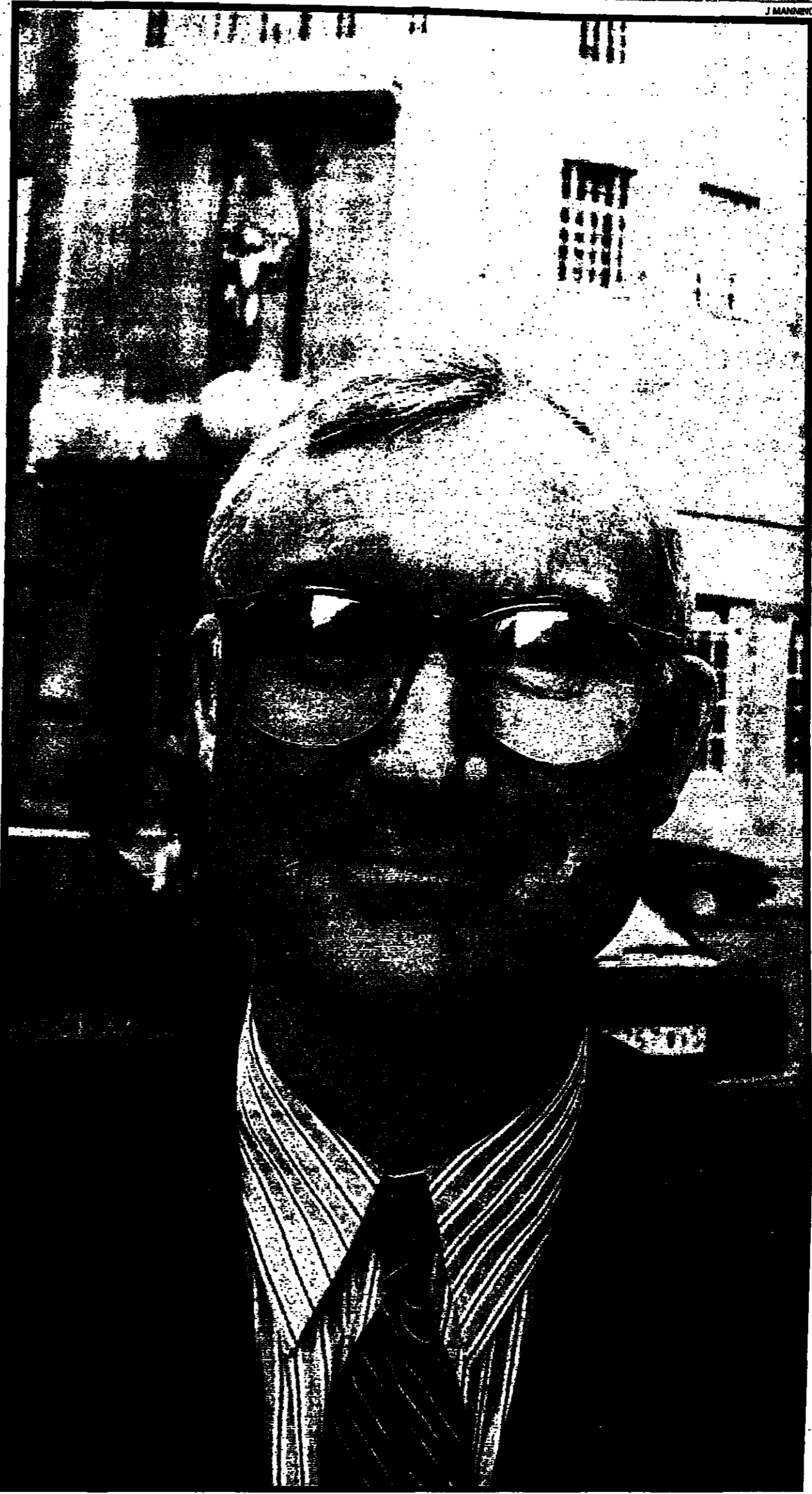
Nonetheless, he will have a difficult time persuading the Government that more real increases are needed when, at the same time, the BBC is promising that over the present five-year licence fee settlement period, which runs out in 2002, it can make savings of £1 billion. The previous Government agreed a deal that tied the licence fee to retail prices but, to help to pay for digital, gave the BBC a large boost this year — 3 per cent above inflation, which pushed the licence fee up by £6 to £97.50.

The Director-General emphatically denies conspiring against the appointment of the film producer Lord Putnam. The plan is that the chosen person will work in tandem with Sir John as deputy director-general in a "managed transition". Sir John has been trocked and sometimes hated for everything from the introduction of an internal market at the BBC to redundancies, excessive use of consultants and his unremitting love of structure, strategy and plans. His legacy, he says, is that the BBC has been modernised and transformed in terms of value for money.

organisation. It is now. We are also an organisation which is much more outward-looking. The BBC that I joined didn't look out of the window. It was utterly obsessed with itself and with its own ethic," says Sir John, who thinks there were 30,000 people at the corporation when he arrived but says that no one knew for sure because the data was not collected. There are now 22,000 staff.

He doubts whether the "rude shock" of having to cope with the end, in 1985, of two decades of real licence fee growth and to cut jobs and costs could have been handled more gently. "It would have been nice to think we could have done all those really difficult things and carried everyone with us in perfect happiness and harmony," he says. "Theoretically we could have done better, but it was always going to be a difficult process in a creative organisation."

But is £1 billion over five years too much to pay for new digital television services such as News 24 and BBC Choice, designed to augment BBC1 and BBC2, not to mention an array of online services? "Any new venture like this is strategic," Sir John says. "It is saying that we are heading into a world which, at some point in the future, will be all digital, just as people in the 1930s might have seen that one day everyone would have a television set." He adds that according to the BBC's best guess, 35 per cent of the population will have digital services in some form by 2002.



Sir John Birt outside Broadcasting House. He is unrepentant about the new regime he introduced at the corporation

Phillip Knightley reports on an old art's revival

Journalism with teeth

One summer night in 1995 in London, Chuck Lewis, an American journalist who looks like Clark Kent, outlined to me what seemed a woolly dream — he wanted to form an international team of investigative journalists to tackle the world's really big stories.

Three years later the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ) is a reality. It has offices in Washington, a two-year start-up budget of \$400,000 (£220,000) with more promised, and 24 members from all over the world. At an inaugural conference at Harvard University this November it will present the first ICIJ award of \$20,000 for outstanding international investigative reporting.



Accountants may have put paid to great investigative journalism

We agreed that, in the wake of the technological revolution in newspaper production, the power structure had changed — accountants had taken over. Suddenly journalists had to show that they were cost-effective — how many column inches did you write this week? In this atmosphere, I said, it would be a brave executive who would dare tell management: "I would detach five or six journalists for an investigation into William Bigbucks. I'll take about six months. They'll need a large travel budget, and Bigbucks is certain to sue, so we'd better set aside a few hundred thousand for legal costs. If we get it wrong and lose a libel action, it could cost another million or so. Oh, and we might not come up with anything worth publishing."

sure of the monied interests behind the campaign to defeat Clinton's universal healthcare plan, and *The Buying of the President*, the seminal study of the special interests behind the presidential candidates of the 1990s, were all the work of the Centre for Public Integrity.

Yet the centre is not by any traditional definition a news organisation. It has a budget of about \$1.5 million a year, largely provided by charitable foundations. It does its investigations with a few reporters and researchers and a large number of journalism students working for pocket-money. It tackles only two or three investigations a year, and hands over its report to grateful newspapers and television stations for little or no cost. Its influence grows steadily.

Lewis wants the ICIJ to be the centre's international arm, to take over the ground being vacated by news organisations as they close their overseas bureaux and reduce foreign coverage. "How can we write about international arms and drug trades, political corruption or environmental degradation without information from these subjects from different parts of the world?" Lewis says.

New role for Dacre

■ VISCOUNT Rothermere has moved to fill the vacuum at the top of Associated Newspapers after the death of Sir David English. Paul Dacre is to take over Sir David's old mantle as Editor-in-Chief in editorial charge of the *Daily Mail*, *The Mail on Sunday* and the *Evening Standard*. Dacre will continue to edit the *Daily Mail*. His appointment is unlikely to still gossip about the fate of Jonathan Holborow, *The Mail on Sunday* Editor, who has had a couple of rocky months.



Maggie Brown

and that 800 to 900 stations are broadcasting at any one time. He has no time for the view of pirates as Robin Hoods: they interfere with air traffic control, tamper with communal TV aerials and steal electricity. But it can be only a matter of time before TV's documentary-makers move in. And Mad Ash? He's switching to the Internet. "It's everything I ever wanted."

■ THE most surprising fact I've learnt this week is that pirate radio is booming again. A group of pluggers, rave scene operators and "anoraks" refuse to be shut down and the Radio Authority's efforts to spread new licences far and wide has not eased the pressure. Bob Geldof says his company, Planet 24, spends its time trailing the pirates in a hunt for new talent — "they're fizzing" — in contrast to the dreary chat and pop that has cast a pall over the legitimate sector, more busy trying to interest people in digital radio than in thinking creatively.

■ THE annual Radio Festival held in Birmingham this week even dedicated its first ever session to pirates — though only one. Mad Ash, showed his face. Mike Botham of the Radio Communications Agency says that it raids about 200 pirates in the Midlands alone each year.

all it is cracked up to be.

■ DEREK DRAPER, who started a new column in *The Daily Telegraph* yesterday, turned up at the *New Statesman's* summer party this week. A colleague of mine met him in the lavatory and asked how he was coping with his fall from favour. Draper replied tartly: "It takes more than that to get me down." Indeed, the media that broke him will probably be his salvation. I hear he is thought to have a good radio voice and was proposed last year by Planet 24 as the presenter for Talk Radio's breakfast show.

■ IT'S hard to convey the odd atmosphere in which the BBC decided to present its annual report this week. By pretending to ape a public company meeting before shareholders, Sir Christopher Bland, the Chairman, was revisiting the 1980s, when the then Director-General, Michael Checkland, shocked everyone by saying as soon as he was appointed that he was running a business. The Checkland approach spawned the excruciating *See For Yourself* annual TV programmes in which first Esther Rantzen then Sue Lawley attempted to field questions to the then Chairman, Marmaduke Hussey. Let's hope that Jill Dando, the current favourite presenter trundled out for all corporate events, is spared that chore. It's always downhill afterwards.

media times

Net news packs a punch

MSNBC's success has confounded the sceptics. Raymond Snoddy reports

Two years ago, when Microsoft and NBC launched their Internet joint venture MSNBC, linked with a national cable news channel, it seemed a futuristic venture. Would viewers switch to the Internet to get more details on their computer screens? The cynics also had a field day when Flight TWA 800 went down off Long Island a week after the launch of the dual news service, testing its resources to the limit.

Brian Williams, the anchor of the MSN cable channel, which specialises in big breaking stories, was reduced initially to holding an atlas to the cameras to show viewers just where the aircraft had gone down. But, says Merrill Brown, the Editor-in-Chief of the Internet service, there was soon an Internet producer on site linking into the coverage of the local NBC affiliate and breaking news on the run.

"When TWA 800 went down we were very fast but also very careful," says Brown, a former *Washington Post* journalist who also edited *Channels*, a magazine specialising in the new media. Two years on MSNBC attracts some 4.2 million users a month.

"I think we have the best news site in the world. We put more video on our site than

anyone else and create more original content. Based on the current ratings service, Media Metrix, we have beaten CNN in 15 of the past 22 months."

He points to results from an independent survey conducted for MSNBC which found that nearly 20 per cent of the American Internet population was using the medium daily, just 2 per cent behind broadcast TV. And a recent study by the Pew Research Centre shows that 36 million Americans obtain news from that source at least once a week, up from 11 million two years ago.

Over the past two years, Brown says, MSNBC has developed "a different mode of storytelling", which brings stories down to local level and personalises them. If, say, an NBC correspondent does a report on dangerous seafood for *Dateline*, NBC's nightly magazine programme, MSNBC will build Web content around it, specifying where seafood is safest, where the risks are greatest. And thousands have "chatted" online with such statesmen as President Yeltsin of Russia and Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister.

MSNBC begins assembling its news by dedicating a producer to each of the main NBC shows whose task is then to develop content extending the story. MSNBC now has its own



Net gains: "I think we have the best news site in the world," says Merrill Brown

correspondent in London, Preston Mendenhall, working with the NBC bureau team. Apart from providing greater depth of information, plus a chance to see clips from the NBC nightly news on demand, MSNBC journalists pick up their own exclusives.

The next challenge is to learn how to use Windows 98 to deliver MSNBC Cable to

the PC screen while simultaneously accessing the Web service. "We have to learn how to do it on one platform; people are going to get TV on the Internet and vice versa. It's happening quicker than people think," says Brown. Already the MSNBC Internet service employs 200 people and costs \$25 million (£15 million) a year to run. At the moment the ser-

vice, which is funded almost entirely by advertising, is on schedule to break even in 2001. Success will depend on MSNBC.com at least holding its current 5 per cent share as the online market expands. So far forecasts of Internet advertising revenue have been met. From \$500 million in 1996 analysts are predicting growth to \$4 billion a year in 2001/02.

Wanted: madmen in front of the mikes

When radio folk meet in congress extraordinary things start to happen. Perhaps the most memorable sight at this week's Radio Academy Festival was of a dishevelled Bob Geldof, straight from a delayed Richard Branson train, denouncing the industry for filling the airwaves with "deracinated halfwit DJs" and calling instead for iconoclasts, madmen, thinkers and talkers to be put before the microphones.

The audience cheered Geldof's tumbling stream of words, even though it must have contained a fair selection of those responsible for the deracinated halfwits and who might be a touch wary of having too many iconoclasts on the payroll. But they loved his notion of radio as the purist, most elemental and creative of mediums and scarcely raised an eyebrow when Geldof gave a telling example of a bit of creativity unleashed by his production company, Planet 24.

He regaled his audience with a story about a series on ambient sound broadcast after midnight by Radio 3, and how *Rainfall*, billed in the *Radio Times* as a recording of a downpour in a Malaysian rainforest, was made. Setting a creative example to the entire radio industry, he revealed that the recording was actually of a bathroom shower in Tufnell Park, North London.

But for the former Boomtown Rat, the radio can be a source of more than music, words or even shower recordings. He has found it a great comfort during moments of crisis; on one such occasion, he got through the night in his London squat — after he finally stopped banging his head on a nail in the wall because it had felt "deliciously icy" — by eating some dope and listening to "primal static" on an old transistor.

Geldof then suggested that what was needed was a return to piracy, which — while undoubtedly creative — would, strictly speaking, be illegal.

The audience was entranced, for it knew instinctively that finding new talent — and keeping it from defecting to television — is becoming an increasingly serious problem. Richard Park, the programme director at Capital, the largest commercial radio company, used his *Times* Lecture, which opened the festival, to announce a talent initiative to bring young people into the company at all

levels and offer proper training. He also called for more consolidation in the industry, so that Capital could expand further, and suggested that in the big markets one company should be able to own three FM and two AM stations, which would also enable Capital to grow.

Park explained, too, why his company had decided not to be part of any consortiums bidding for national digital radio frequencies: he wanted the BBC to forge ahead and create a digital radio market. "We can then all come and join you. That's the Utopian position," he said.

But at the dinner after the lecture the worry was again that radio's talent base was being stretched too thinly by rapid expansion and that young people might become too hooked on the Internet to spend time listening to conventional radio.

Tony Stoller, the chief executive of the Radio Authority, the industry regulator, pulled another rabbit out of the hat by announcing that, in future, many dozens of universities, colleges and hospitals would be able to grant low-power AM radio licences on a long-term basis. In an astonishing lurch towards openness, the authority is even going to start explaining why a particular candidate has been chosen for a licence — something long sought by the losers.

To cap it all, Ralph Bernard, the chief executive of GWR and the man responsible for pushing Classic FM's regular audience above five million, would like to see the creation of two new tiers of radio. One would be devoted regional radio, with control exercised in the region rather than from London. More radically, he wants to encourage the spread of community — either in terms of geography or of interest — radio stations. Initially, Bernard suggested, such stations could be subsidised by existing local radio stations making a cash bid for their licences.

New tiers of radio could certainly help to solve a looming talent crisis. It is not clear, however, whether they would allow any more iconoclasts, madmen, thinkers and talkers to make it before the microphone. Still, there is no shortage of elemental hiss around for free.



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Tabloids signs of
Ford's m

Tabloids show real signs of a slump

MORE questions than answers are posed by the sales figures for the 19 national daily and Sunday newspapers for the first six months of 1998 — which have already seen the resignation (aka the sackings) of eight editors.

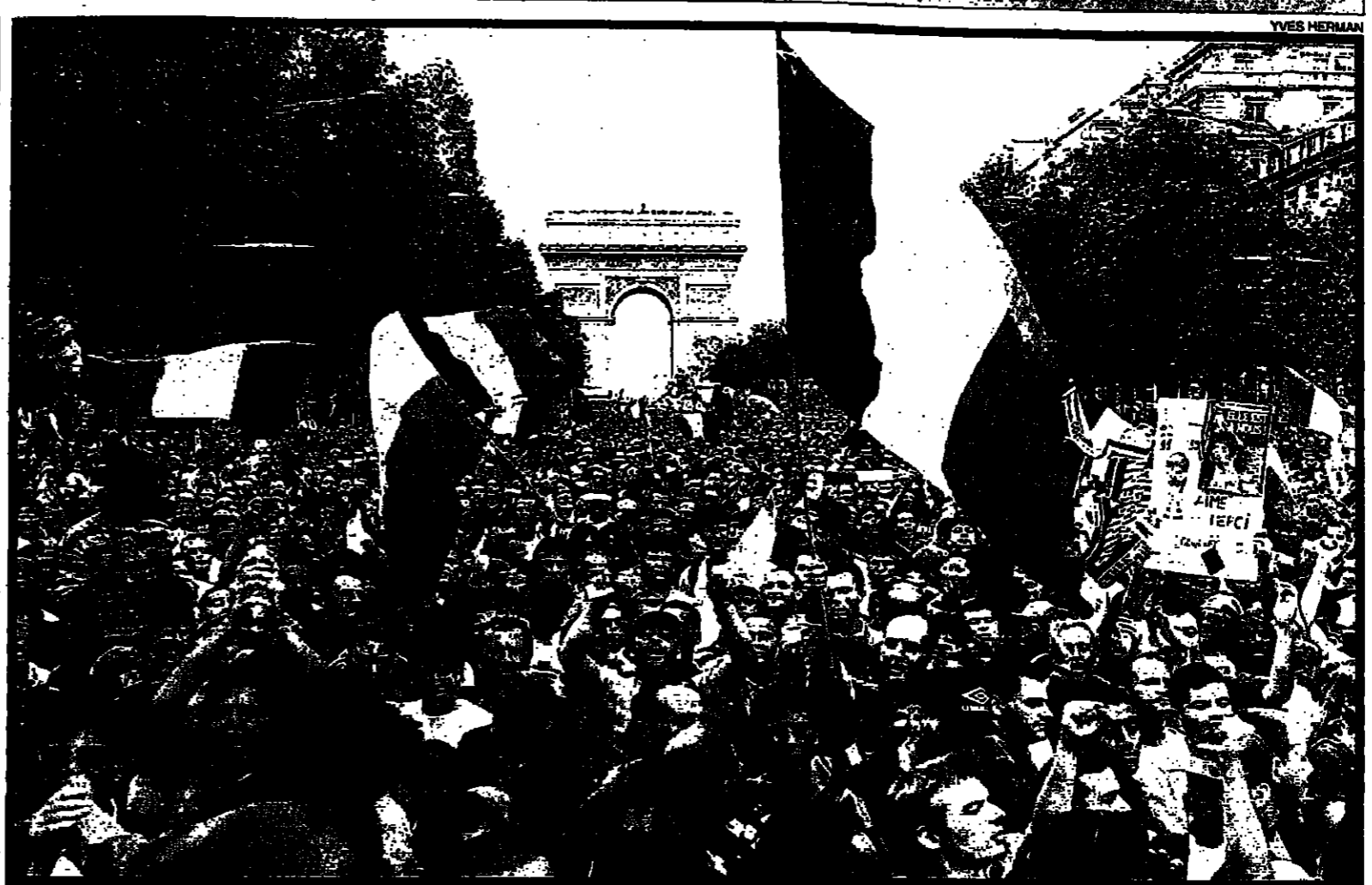


Brian Maguire PAPER ROUND

The most serious question is addressed to the red-top tabloids: how are they going to arrest the now dramatic and continuing slump in circulation. Over the first six months of 1998, average sales on weekdays were down by 300,000, and on Sundays by more than 550,000, compared with the first six months of 1997.

The paper that is apparently losing least and, in a good month like June, gaining most is *The Mirror* which has shifted upmarket, and is putting a greater emphasis on decent reads. Over the first six months this year, its average sale was up by 22,400 (1 per cent) against 4,300 (0.12 per cent) for *The Sun* and year-on-year last month it was up by 36,600 against a drop of 87,700 for *The Sun*.

That suggests that a slightly more serious approach is working. Its rivals, however, say that *The Mirror's* circulation figures are inflated by regional price-cutting drives, vouchers and giveaways — the June Audit Bureau of Circulations figures show that *The Mirror* had 502,000 sales at a lesser rate compared with 437,000 for *The Sun*. So is the "serious" *Mirror* really working?



We are the champions: thousands of French fans celebrate their World Cup victory on the Champs Elysées — but sales of some soccer magazines dipped

Who's celebrating now?

Sixty-eight years after France created the World Cup and less than a week after demolishing the favourites and four-time champions Brazil 3-0 in Paris on Sunday, the atmosphere inside the headquarters of *France Football*, the nation's leading football magazine, is... well, subdued.

While France exploded in rapture at its first World Cup victory, here at *France Football's* offices in the Parisian dormitory town of Issy Les Moulineaux, no tricolours fluttered from the windows, no banners proclaimed "Zidane for President" and, in contrast with most French offices, not one of the staff warbled the *Marseillaise*.

As journalists it's not that we don't feel it on the inside, we just don't show how we are on the outside," says the magazine's Editor, Gérard Ernauld, who is at pains to explain that the self-control of his staff is professionalism and not lack of patriotism.

However, that did not stop Ernauld and his staff celebrating *Les Bleus'* victory with champagne — after they had put the bumper edition of the paper to bed at 3.30am, two hours after their usual deadline. "Our excitement did increase as the World Cup went on and France continued to do well," he admits.

As the magazine's reporters toasted the French victory, the return to a more sombre atmosphere this week is understandable when you know that *France Football* is the victim of a remarkable paradox. While one might have expected sales to rise during the World Cup, this has not been the case.

One of France's leading soccer magazines is relieved that the World Cup is over. Susan Bell reports

competitor. Unfortunately, it is not possible to keep the competition at bay during such an enormous event as the World Cup. "Media which usually bother very little with our market take a huge interest in football during the World Cup. Every radio and TV station devotes hours to games and newspapers produce special editions. Our readers become satiated by the daily media and have less need for a weekly magazine," Ernauld says.

In his experience, sales figures are strong before the World Cup kicks off, but diminish once the competition begins and readers start getting their football fix from the daily print and electronic media. The good news is that once the final is over, old readers return, hopefully bringing new ones who have caught the football bug.

Ernauld is a cautious man, but even he predicts that after France's win, the future for his publication looks bright. A phenomenon has occurred and perhaps we can surf on it. We did not profit immediately, but maybe in the medium or long term...

Meanwhile, this week *France Football* produced its biggest ever edition, a print run of 670,000 — more than three times larger than usual. He chuckles: "I think we can safely say that that will be an all-time record."

FLEET STREET'S HALF YEAR REPORT					
DAILY TITLES					
POPULAR	Average daily sale	Compared to May'98	Compared to June'97	% +/-	Market share
The Sun	3,701,446	50,269	-87,722	-2.32	28.73
Daily Mirror	2,340,080	48,340	36,674	1.59	18.16
Daily Star	574,086	-187	-72,852	-11.26	4.46
Market total	6,615,612	150,782	150,792	6.98	8.80
MIDDLE					
Daily Express	1,133,356	-8,151	-87,974	-7.2	8.80
Daily Mail	2,312,168	45,466	150,792	6.98	17.95
Market total	3,445,524	37,315	62,818	2.02	10.00
QUALITY					
THE TIMES	789,742	16,899	34,028	4.63	5.97
D Telegraph	1,086,875	-3,638	-23,840	-2.19	8.28
Guardian	400,025	4,485	9,579	2.34	3.10
Independent	224,559	4,585	-31,328	-12.24	1.74
Fin Times	367,779	4,092	35,103	10.75	2.81
Market total	2,827,980	29,229	4,989	1.76	21.93
GRAND TOTAL	12,883,396	362,000	362,000	2.89	100.00
SUNDAY TITLES					
POPULAR	Average daily sale	Compared to May'98	Compared to June'97	% +/-	Market share
N o t W	4,185,320	-40,477	-168,480	-3.84	29.45
The People	1,716,906	-18,264	-183,578	-9.96	12.14
Sunday Mirror	1,970,869	-62,241	-253,267	-11.39	13.93
Sunday Sport	252,791	18,531	-29,447	-10.43	1.78
Market total	10,125,886	-102,447	-634,772	-6.22	28.10
MIDDLE					
Sunday Express	1,033,341	-36,116	-101,005	-8.91	7.3
Hell on Sunday	2,192,294	952	92,226	4.39	15.5
Market total	3,225,635	-35,164	-8,779	-1.26	10.00
QUALITY					
SUNDAY TIMES	1,320,265	-19,986	21,896	1.69	9.33
Observer	403,300	1,322	-39,749	-8.97	2.85
Sun Telegraph	853,875	7,581	-20,078	-2.35	5.90
Sun Independent	255,684	592	-18,368	-6.02	1.81
Market total	2,833,024	10,581	-56,299	-1.98	10.00
GRAND TOTAL	24,184,928	349,519	349,519	1.45	100.00

All editors are on trial every day but the annual autumn offensive when readers have returned from their holidays is going to be a big test for the eight new editors and promises some fascinating battles. At *The Sun*, Yelland, who celebrated his first month with a sales increase of 50,000, has to reverse the downward sales trend: it is now 15 months since *The Sun* sold 4 million. Now that their managements have given them more money to spend, Rosie Boycott at *The Express* and Simon Kellner at *The Independent* need to show results.

Ford's multimillion shift

FORD, for years the largest client to have all its billings in one agency, Ogilvy & Mather, has moved some \$150 million (£92 million) pan-European business to Young & Rubicam.



Stefano Hatfield

Nobody can have been entirely surprised. Only last week Ford awarded Y&R the launch of the Focus, the successor to the Escort, and Ford's most significant European launch in years. This marked the fourth consecutive pitch in which Y&R had beaten off the once impregnable O&M (after Galaxy, Puma and Cougar).

Y&R has been trying to become the lead agency on Ford for almost two decades. More than 15 years ago it hired John Banks, then known as Mr Ford at O&M, with the express aim of snaffling the Ford account. The move came to nothing. But Y&R, which has significant Ford business in the United States, persevered. It was finally given a chance with the launch of the Galaxy people-carrier four years ago, and hasn't looked back.

Its creative work on Galaxy and, particularly, the launch of the Puma last year with the help of a remarkable commercial starring the late Steve McQueen in a pastiche of *Bullitt* forced O&M to raise what had been a pretty mediocre standard. It responded with a series of far quirkier and more interesting commercials for the likes of the Ka, the Mondeo and even the unfortunately named and short-lived Probe. The Escort, Fiesta and dealers campaigns were all very good.

But O&M knew it was susceptible to international realignment because it had itself won business (most notably IBM and AmEx) by the same means. There is, of course, more to it than that. While it is a great coup for Y&R, Ford is the kind of business that takes some losing. It does not move agencies lightly, and will have given O&M every chance to retain the account. The last

believed to be corkers. This battle will run and run.

While the gang under Maurice at M & C Saatchi continues to enjoy a charmed life, things at the old Saatchi & Saatchi agency have been getting tougher. Having emerged from the M & C Saatchi debacle pretty well — considering it lost the likes of BA, Mars, Dixons and Gallaher — Saatchi's managed to hold its ground in the top five UK agencies and nurture its crucial Procter & Gamble (P&G) relationship.

REMEMBER the quiz at the start of the World Cup asking you to name the 12 official sponsors? After more than a month of exposure, how do you fare now? The answers are MasterCard, Adidas, McDonald's, Fuji, JVC, Philips, Opel, Coca-Cola, Budweiser, Canon, Gillette and Snickers. Stefano Hatfield is the Editor of Campaign.

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THE TIMES
EDUCATION

Truancy gets the better of girls

Josh Hillman on a report that challenges the assumptions we hold about our wasted youth

Conjure up an image of a disaffected youth. The chances are that you will picture an aggressive male in his late teens, living in the inner city and possibly of ethnic origin.

Think again. When all the statistics on under-achievement and social exclusion are gathered, such stereotypes are confounded. The popular perception is that Britain's under-achievers are mainly boys, dragging each other down with anti-education peer-group pressure.

In fact, at the lowest levels of GCSE attainment, gender performance differences are not that great. Girls are just as likely to play truant from school, and just as likely not to be in education, training or work by the age of 17.

The roots of educational failure and disengagement are complex, stretching back to early experience at school and to family background. Young people now or formerly in local authority care are particularly vulnerable. One in four of those 14 to 16-year-olds in care is either excluded from school or does not attend regularly. These young people are overwhelmingly from low-income backgrounds and bring educational disadvantage with them into care. But rather than ameliorate this disadvantage, the experience of care seems to compound it — an indictment of the policies and practices of many local authorities.

The fallout is clear. Many

are severely disadvantaged, particularly in their ability to negotiate the complex transitions that life springs on them; for example, entry into the labour market or securing accommodation and independence.

So are we seeing the formation of a youth underclass? It is true that there are large and overlapping groups of teenage boys and girls — nearly one in ten — who play truant every

For many young people schools are custodial institutions

week, leave school without any qualifications, then do not go into any formal learning or work. More detailed study of the evidence shows that young people tend to follow complex pathways in different categories of activity in education and the labour market.

So the image of a static group of "socially excluded" youths is not accurate but is a status that people move in and out of. This suggests that though policies targeted at the disaffected are essential, they need to be accompanied by wider reforms.

The Institute for Public Policy

Research (IPPR), in its report *Wasted Youth* published today, identifies fundamental problems in the education and training system preventing Britain from tackling under-achievement and disaffection.

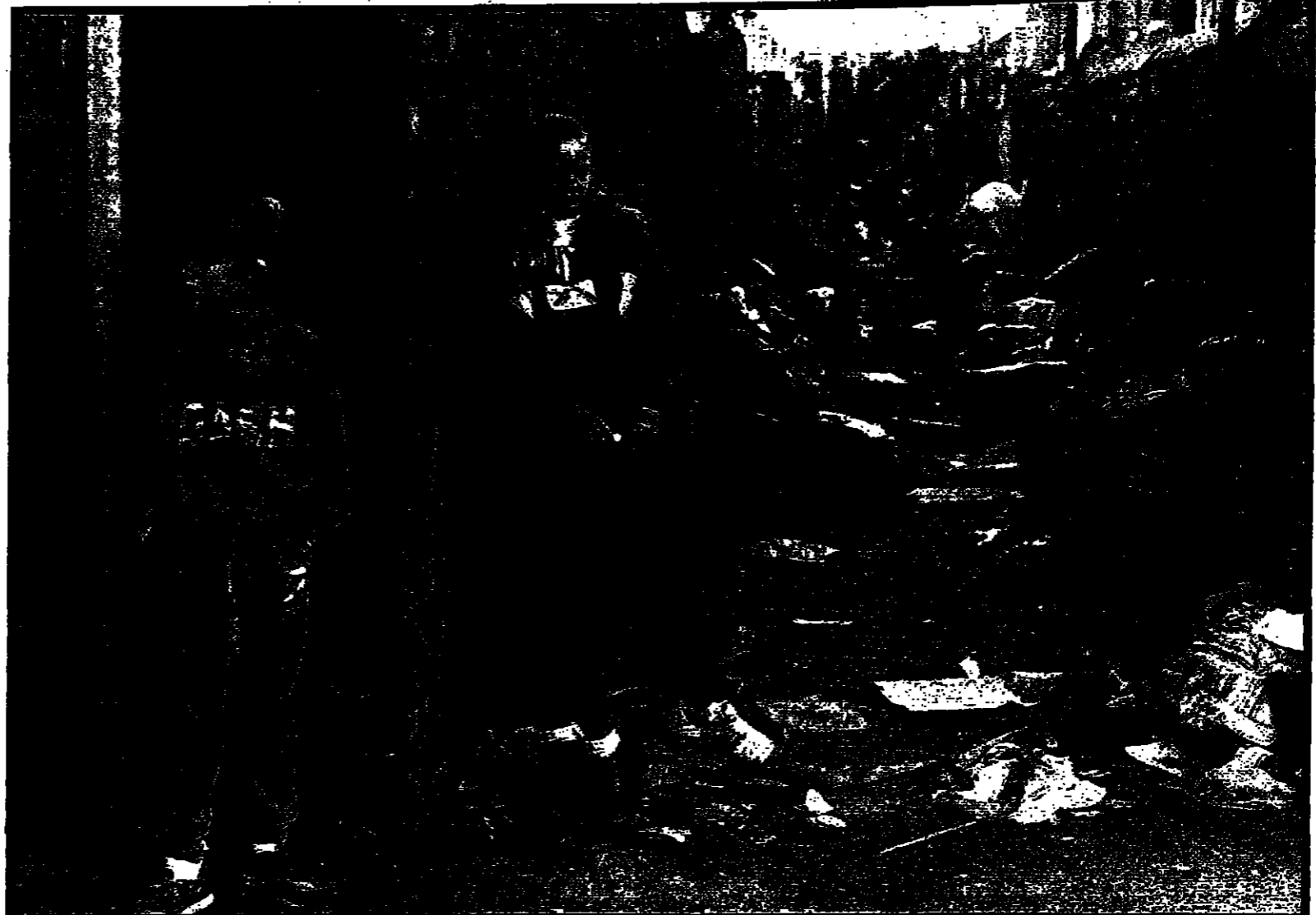
First, for too many young people, schools are custodial institutions, sealed off from the outside world and impermeable to external influences. Schools should be enabled to develop much stronger links with further education colleges, so that pupils can study in an alternative location alongside a more mature or mixed age group.

The boundaries between schools and their communities should also be broken down; for example, by bringing in a new class of teachers — associate teachers — making a regular contribution to the curriculum.

Secondly, school GCSE league tables have focused too much on those pupils with five A* to C passes. Funding is closely tied to a school's ability to attract pupils and this focus encourages them to concentrate their efforts on pupils around this level.

Thirdly, disaffected young people are served badly by the existing qualifications structure. The GCSE cliff-face at 16 effectively sorts young people into fairly rigid tracks. It also consigns a minority to "status zero" — not participating at all in education, training or employment.

Fourthly, arrangements for organising and funding tertiary education and training are



Contrary to popular belief, disaffected young people are not exclusively male. Girls are just as likely as boys to suffer from low achievement at 17

irrational in both their complexity and their inequity.

And finally, financial support for young people is now a minefield of anomalies. Many young people live in poverty or are homeless because of ineligibility for benefits while well-off parents of 16 to 19-year-olds in full-time education are able to claim child benefit.

The Government has, in the past 14 months, set in place a number of well-targeted programmes aimed at some of our most disaffected young people. It should now turn its attention to the more extensive and radical reforms required for the second term.

The author is senior research fellow at the IPPR, *Wasted Youth: raising achievement and tackling social exclusion is available from Central Books (0181-986 5488).*

HOME AND AWAY: CATCHING THEM UP TO NO GOOD



Truancy: sometimes it can be especially hard to detect

TODAY'S report on truancy and disaffection could not have come at a more topical moment. Ministers have made it clear that schools will have to tackle both if they are to collect their share of the Chancellor's billions.

Yet the Institute for Public Policy Research's analysis suggests that families are at least as important in the equation as teachers. Truants may not be the male underclass of media mythology, but persistent absentees do tend to have problems at home.

Home Office research has found that teenagers who spend long periods unsupervised are particularly likely to slip into regular truancy and crime. A low level of supervision, in turn, often indicates a poor relationship with one or both parents.

The legal duty to ensure that a child attends school regularly falls squarely on parents. But prosecutions are rare and schools recognise that fulfilling that

responsibility is not as easy as it sounds. Discovering that a child is playing truant often comes as a shock; there may be few warning signs.

The most insidious form of truancy — and the most difficult to quantify — involves selective absenteeism. The child leaves home at the right time, registers regularly, but then skips lessons he or she finds boring or difficult. There is no need even to leave the school.

As a result, national truancy statistics are seldom worth the paper they are written on. Many schools and local authorities have made genuine and sometimes successful attempts to tackle the problem, but the reassuring decline on the graph almost certainly owes more to reporting practice than reality.

As the IPPR suggests, the only sure way to make real progress is for parents and schools to work together.

JOHN O'LEARY

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Hotline help for students

THE countdown to A-level results has already begun in thousands of households and the agonising moment approaches when teenagers discover that the grades are not quite what they had hoped for. John O'Leary writes.

This summer, for the first time, *The Times* will be offering extra help for those who are still searching for seeking a higher education course after next month's results. As well as publishing the only daily newspaper listing of university vacancies, *The Times* will provide readers with a telephone hotline for advice on suitable courses. A team of trained advisers will give readers detailed information on opportunities in clearing.

The clearing process, which matches applicants to vacancies after universities and colleges have made initial offers, begins as A-level results appear on August 20. Admissions officers have the results days before the students, so have a clear idea of where the vacancies will fall.

With one student in six securing a place through clearing last year — 54,401 — the end of August will be frantic for those who miss their grades. The number of higher education places available this autumn will be similar to 1997, and, with applications only just down despite the introduction of tuition fees, there will be no time to lose in seeking the best courses.

After a full listing in a special supplement for results day, *The Times* will divide courses into arts and social sciences, sciences, and engineering and technology. Each will be covered twice a week, listing the latest vacancies and giving the information for applicants.

An American's dream

An American entrepreneur who says he can raise standards in British schools, reduce class sizes and give each pupil a laptop at no extra cost to the taxpayer has this week met policy advisers to discuss his ideas.

Benno Schmidt, the head of the Edison Project, wants to help new Labour to fulfil its education pledges while making a profit for his education company. A former President of Yale University, Mr Schmidt has carried out the scheme in 25 American schools and plans to redesign and market education here. Already, some local education authorities are listening, and on Tuesday the Education Select Committee invited him to explain how it works.

The Edison Project has researched radical ideas to improve schools since 1995. After taking over the 25 schools, 90 per cent had their head teachers and staff replaced by new staff, who were paid 10 per cent more than the average teaching salary. Curricula were redesigned, school days and terms lengthened, and computers provided for all.

Besides private investment, Edison received per-pupil funding from America's equivalent of local education authorities. In state-run schools, only two thirds is received by the school; the rest is retained to provide additional services. However, Edison demands all the money and provides the extra services. It is this essential one third of government funding that it uses as profit. The results bode well. In 80 per cent of the schools, performance is better than average. The pupil/teacher ratio is 18:1.

Almost all local pupils choose to go to the schools. In one shining example, an Edison school whose pupils started out five months behind the national reading average progressed to four months ahead of it.

Mr Schmidt explains: "We judge the success of our schools primarily on how the pupils in the school are suc-

ceeded. We are working with largely disadvantaged communities, but we can turn the pupil performances around."

Scratch the surface, though, and the picture is hazier. At the school where pupils learnt to read fast, there had been a huge pupil turnover. More affluent and well-educated pupils arrived and reading ability jumped. The pressure put on teachers also appears to be enormous. With profit resting on pupil intake and pupil intake resting on results, teacher turnover at the schools is double the US average.

"Some very able and fine school leaders who have per-

formed well in other schools are just not right for our schools," Mr Schmidt says.

"They have to be able to make radical changes, which is the critical element. If they are not right, we fire them."

Another cause for concern, which binds improved results with profitmaking, is the accommodation made for special needs children. Edison believes that separate teaching is not needed. Pupils are taught together, with more attention focused on special needs children. This, Mr Schmidt says, saves money and the children still learn adequately. But though 20 per cent of pupils in Boston schools have special needs, only 12 per cent have opted for the Edison system. Mr Schmidt disputes the statistics.

Strangely, Edison has not yet made a profit in the US, because the money is reinvested. It hopes to run at least 35 schools here. Mr Schmidt says that he would invest £10 million to research changes to the school system, and then put

£1 million into each secondary school involved. A week after David Blunkett, the Education Secretary, called for more radical proposals for the next education action zone bids, and with promises of large financial investment, the Edison way is increasingly appealing. As a business, Edison needs good academic performance to attract pupils and drive profit. But how the books are made to balance, and what falls by the wayside in the process, remains carefully shaded behind the Edison glow.

Paul Rogers



Schmidt: mixing idealism with profit

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SALISBURY
RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY
101
102
103
104
105
106
107
108
109
110

Windows rattles to victory target

BY MICHAEL HENDERSON

THEY huffed and they puffed, but the Sussex bowlers could not blow down Gloucestershire's house. Not quite. After two balls of the fourth innings, when Lewry snuffed a hat-trick, the house was built of straw, and another mighty blow might have smashed it into smithereens.

Another championship match at Cheltenham over within three days. Was it a dodgy pitch? Certainly not, despite the fact that Alleyne's unbroken stand of 89 with Windows was, by some distance, the best of the game.

So it was unplayable bowling then, and fly-livered batting? Not really. The ball "did a bit" throughout, at no great pace, mind, but this pitch was no enemy of the batsman. Windows fairly welcomed the ball to all parts yesterday in making 60 vastly entertaining runs off as many balls.

It is better to say that the batting was modest, and the bowling sharp. Only Peirce and Hancock, the respective openers, gave any impression of permanence. Windows, for all the fun he provided, played with the air of a fellow who wanted to get things over quickly, and if he perished in the attempt, there was always somebody else who could finish the job.

Full marks to Sussex for springing a few traps along the way. They woke up yesterday morning on 118 for six, a lead of 71, and they managed to extend it to 115 before Robinson was last out, fending off Lewis to short leg. Smith had taken the first two wickets, including Peirce, and he finished the innings with four in all. What a reliable bowler he is.

Faced with the task of taking early wickets, to give Gloucestershire a fright, Sussex could hardly have made a better start. Lewry sent Trainor's off stump spinning towards the tents with his "loosener", and the grip stuck in a few throats when Hewson was castled next ball. When Hancock was leg-before in Lewry's fourth over, Gloucestershire were on the ropes at 29 for three.

Alleyne and Windows restored order before lunch and galloped to victory afterwards. Windows, a squat little chap, delighted the crowd, a partisan but fair one, with his whipping pulls and powerful drives. The Sussex fielders, to their credit, gave him a good hand when he reached fifty.

He was most severe on Martin-Jenkins, whose two overs cost 20 as Windows clubbed five boundaries on both sides of the wicket. The genie was out of the bottle, and Sussex could not find the stopper.

CRICKET: LEADERS READY TO UNLEASH SPINNERS AFTER TAKING COMMAND AGAINST MIDDLESEX

Surrey prepare to turn the screw

By PAT GIBSON

GUILDFORD (second day of four): Surrey, with two second-innings wickets in hand, are 370 runs ahead of Middlesex

SURREY have come to regard their annual visit to Guildford as a watershed in their season. Sometimes it takes an encouraging turn for the better, raising their hopes of winning the county championship for the first time since 1971; sometimes it takes a nasty turn for the worse, signalling the end of their dream for another year.

Take the last time they came to Woodbridge Road as championship leaders, four years ago. They were beaten by Warwickshire, who went on to win the title, and lost four of their last seven games to limp into seventh place.

The portents are better this time. Championship leaders once more, they believe that they will take some catching if they beat Middlesex and they were well on their way last night after vividly contrasting innings from Ian Ward, Alec Stewart, Adam Holloake and Alistair Brown had put them in a commanding position.

The pitch is starting to turn, albeit slowly, and there are no better spinners to exploit it than Ian Salisbury, who has already taken 30 wickets this season to make himself a certainty for England's next Test team, and Saqlain Mushtaq, the gifted Pakistani.

The second day could hardly have been more different to the first, when 20 wickets went down before Surrey gained a first-innings lead of 35. Yesterday, the sun came out, the ball did little for the seam bowlers and the batting was significantly better as Surrey built purposefully on their advantage.



Adam Holloake, the Surrey captain, looks on anxiously as the tumbling Nash narrowly fails to hold on to a chance at short leg yesterday

Only one of the top five batsmen failed and unfortunately for England it was Mark Butcher, who needed to make runs to reclaim the Test place he lost when he cracked a thumb a month ago. This is his first match since then and after making nought in the first innings he was out for ten, driving at Bait and slicing to cover.

Bait, the 6ft 4in left-arm swing bowler who has made such a remarkable start to his Middlesex career, again impressed and almost made Stewart pay for his arrogance for the second day running when he got him to top-edge a hook that fell tantalisingly out of reach of Ramprakash as he ran from mid-wicket to square leg.

After that, however, Stewart was at his imperious best, cutting and driving with immense authority on his way to 46 off 38 balls, including nine fours, before he made an error of judgment similar to the one that brought his downfall in the Old Trafford Test. This time he offered no stroke to a ball from Bait that swung in to have him leg-before.

Ward, a correct, composed left-hander who is becoming a pillar of Surrey's batting, had helped Stewart to put on 71 for the second wicket, and now he supported his captain, Adam Holloake, in a third-wicket partnership of 63 before he was undone by extra bounce from Fraser and caught behind.

By then, Holloake, bristling with intent, had driven Tufnell for six and hit six fours as well on his way to 59, and when he was caught in the gully by a tumbling Gaingoff Johnson, Brown assumed control with a sense of responsibility that used to seem beyond him.

Giles brings on Hampshire slide

By RUPERT COX

EDGBASTON (second day of four): Warwickshire, with all second-innings wickets in hand, are 142 runs ahead of Hampshire

FOR much of yesterday, it seemed that this match would follow the pattern of the first day. Again, wickets tumbled initially, only to be succeeded by staunch middle-order resistance, and Hampshire could not sustain their recovery, as Ashley Giles produced his season's best figures of five for 48 to instigate a collapse to threaten Hampshire with the follow-on.

That Hampshire staved off the ignominy of following on owed much to a competent 46 from Alex Morris, in his third match for his new county, and his captain, Shaun Udall, who, batting at No 11, fought off the debilitating effects of a virus to add 51 in 24 overs. Morris loathed Giles over long-on to pass the follow-on target.

It was a haphazard batting performance on what has proved to be an excellent wicket proffering early life with the new ball and some assistance to the spinners. Given the wet summer, Steve

Habib caps day for Leicestershire

By JOHN THICKNESSE

LEICESTER (third day of four): Northamptonshire, with four second-innings wickets in hand, are three runs behind Leicestershire

A last-wicket partnership of 66 between Aftab Habib and Matthew Brimson broke the Northamptonshire resistance at Grace Road yesterday, and won Leicestershire a clear sight of the victory they need to consolidate their championship challenge to Surrey.

By the time Habib was out for 198 — run out as non-striker by David Sales from cover — Leicestershire were 162 ahead. Conditions were still in favour of the bat, and when Northamptonshire reached 63 for one, Leicestershire may have been reconciled to hours of labour before the match was theirs.

At 63, however, Robert Bailey fell to a beautifully-taken slip catch by Chris Lewis, whereupon the innings ground almost to a standstill. Finned down by the lighted slow left-arm of Brimson, Mal Loye and Sales, who are both much better playing strokes, took 15

Moody survives duel with Wasim

By BARNEY SPENDER

LYTHAM (third day of four): Worcestershire, with four second-innings wickets in hand, are 239 runs ahead of Lancashire

AFTER months of gloomy skies and abbreviated days, the elements and the cricket joined forces at Church Road to produce a wonderful day's cricket and set up an intriguing final chapter in this match. It was a day of sunshine, warmth and ice-creams, a day of drama and entertainment, and Lancashire fought their way back into the game only to see Tom Moody claw back the initiative for Worcestershire.

His 93 not out, which included a fiery duel with Wasim Akram, was a minor masterpiece as he picked up the pieces of a Worcestershire second innings that had collapsed to 76 for five and took them to a lead of 239. Another 30 runs this morning should give them the edge on a pitch which is giving plenty of assistance to the seamers. But it is still a close call.

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The only consolation for Hick was that David Lloyd, the England coach, was still in the car park and so missed the 'lack of footwork' that contributed to his dismissal. Moody enjoyed his share of luck but he also produced some wonderfully aggressive strokeplay.

Lancashire, though, deserved credit for their fightback. They began the day needing another six runs to avoid the follow-on and, after Wasim's early departure, the wise heads of Hegg and Austin did it with something to spare.

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Hegg, whose half-century was his fifth in eight championship innings this season, played some stunning cover drives, while Austin, who hit nine fours and one six, played with the flair and invention that has made him such an important one-day player.

With Fairbrother unable to bat, Lancashire conceded a first-innings lead of 43, but that seemed insignificant as Chapple and Austin inspired Worcestershire's collapse. The crowd were licking their lips at the prospect of a home win, but they forgot about Moody.

Yorkshire folk come round to outsider

SCARBOROUGH (second day of four): Yorkshire, with three first-innings wickets in hand, are 124 runs ahead of Nottinghamshire

FOR a membership until recently hostile to signing a player from overseas, Yorkshire folk have learnt to embrace their foreigners as fellow brethren (Richard Hobson writes). The reception they gave to Darren Lehmann yesterday suggested that he was a son of Scarborough rather than southern Australia.

A festival crowd had swollen to around 3,500 by mid-afternoon when Lehmann completed an attractive, chanceless hundred, the sixth in the championship for his adopted county, his second in succession and first in Yorkshire itself.

The mediocrity of the depleted Nottinghamshire bowling attack and some varied fielding does nothing to demean the quality of his play.

One consequence of Lehmann's display is that Yorkshire enter the second half of the game firmly in control. It is conceivable they may even complete victory today, for while the pitch has lost some of the pace and venom of the first day there is still enough to encourage the seamers. Unfortunately for Nottinghamshire, they lost Wharf to a side strain after he had bowled just two deliveries — both of which were no balls.

Evans, having trapped McGrath leg-before late on Wednesday, bowled Vaughan and had Hutchison, the nightwatchman, caught at gully before lunch yesterday. Byas, however, enjoyed far too many opportunities to work the ball off his hips while Lehmann soon picked up the tempo of his recent 136 against Kent at Maidstone.

They added 115 in 28 overs before Byas edged Evans low to Archer at second slip, having scored 54 in 130 minutes. Lehmann had earlier reached 50 with a flayed cover drive and passed 100 with an equally forceful stroke off Downman, this time whipped through mid-wicket.

For a player who arrived in England at the start of last season with a reputation of simply hitting through the line his range is impressive.

The individual contest against Strang produced an absorbing spectacle as the leg-spinner, varying his flight, enticed him to hit over the top. Time and again, Lehmann went down the pitch with intent, only to check his stroke when he realised he was not quite there.

If Wood was left at ease, as he is entitled to be in his debut season, then at least he refused to surrender. It eventually took a fine delivery by Franks, his first with the second new ball, to beat his defensive stroke and end the partnership of 99.

Lehmann finally fell in the next over when he edged an outswinger to become Evans's fifth victim after scoring 131 in just under four hours with 15 fours.

Franks bowled Hamilton with a good-length ball that kept a little low, but Blakey and Cough were able to extend the score to 358 for 7 by the close of play.

Hooper's torment of Essex continues

By JACK BAILEY

SOUTHEND (second day of four): Kent, first-innings wickets in hand, lead Essex by 18 runs

Nothing personal, but Essex are hardly fed up with him. By the time Hooper was out, Kent, at 241 for five, were within reach of a decent first-innings lead, a target towards which Mark Ealham and Matthew Fleming continued to ease them while paying due care and attention. The pitch was on the slow side and there was help for spinners and seamers alike. Mere mortals found stroke-playing hazardous and, Hooper apart, there was a need to buckle down.

It was the same for those who had come and gone earlier. Key had been caught behind before the day was five overs old; Ward, after some pleasing drives, mistimed to short leg. Such was the bowler then and he enjoyed the event rather more than his last over before lunch when Hooper hit him for 13 runs.

In the meantime, Fulton had proved a stolid partner while Hooper and, to some extent, Ward enjoyed themselves. Fulton's half-century, a brief period of aggression from Alan Wells and sensible batting by Ealham and Fleming enabled Kent to achieve a slender lead shortly before stumps were drawn.

Vodafone Challenge Series Durham v South Africans

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Advertisement for 'GOLF' featuring 'Davies flies high with two eagles' and 'Habib: run out for 198'.

GOLF

Rough passage leaves Leonard with plenty to do

By MATT DICKINSON

JUSTIN LEONARD'S gift for trite understatement cannot be understated. "It must have brought out goosebumps when you were introduced as the defending Open champion?" he was asked. "Yeah, it was kinda fun."

It was a bit much, then, to expect the American to admit being any worse than "sorta disappointed" by a scrappy round of 73 yesterday.

Leonard prefers to let his golf do the talking and yesterday it screamed "help". The problems were plentiful, but he was principally undone by rough thicker even than his Texan drawl.

Twice he disappeared into it almost up to his thighs and, as he reached for help from his sand-wedge, he must have regretted not packing a machete.

When we last saw him on an Open course, Leonard was putting on the last green to complete the almost flawless 65 that clinched the Championship at Troon. It was an unfamiliar figure, then, who arrived on the tee at the 498-yard 13th yesterday and finished the hole a quarter of an hour later looking like someone who had been hacking his way through the jungle.

Having sliced his drive half way to Liverpool, he then appeared to be trying to dig a passage to the centre of the earth. He slashed one wedge shot 80 yards into more rough and then pulled his next across the fairway into even more trouble. He did superbly to escape with a six.

"It's tough to take," he said, "because it was probably as easy as the course is going to play all week. Now I am going to need to play good just to make sure I play at the weekend. When I was struggling, I tried to remind myself of last year. I certainly felt the warmth of the crowd and that made it a lot easier. But I know I am in a hole."



TELEVISION TODAY: BBC2 10.30am-12.30pm; BBC1 12.30-1pm; BBC2 1.00-7.30pm; Highlights: BBC1 10.00-10.45pm.

While Leonard was trying to recapture his form of last season, one of his playing partners, Thomas Bjorn, was doing his best to consign his most recent Open memories to the dustbin.

There are those who worry that the Dane tries too hard to fulfill his limitless ambitions, and it certainly seemed the case last year when he left

Troon almost in tears, cursing his own failings.

In Denmark, they call him the bear and, a burly man with eyebrows as thick as a gorse bush, Bjorn appears to growl around the course much as Colin Montgomerie does when he is not pretending to be relaxed.

Fortunately, Bjorn has a caddie, Martin Gray, who took a Masters degree in temperamental bosses by working for Severiano Ballesteros. It was Gray who memorably responded to the Spaniard's complaint that he had been given a bad apple by telling him to employ a green-grocer rather than a caddie. Their relationship ended soon afterwards.

Gray's new boss is not exactly the cuddly type either, but there were glimpses yesterday of a new-found maturity as well as the talent that many believe makes Bjorn, at the age of 27, a major winner in waiting.

Twice he missed simple putts, but he kept calm and seized his next opportunities.

"It is important for me to play well in the Open if I am to establish myself among the best in the world and that is what I want to do," he said.

"I want to be able to win majors and I believe I can. I think I showed at the Ryder Cup that I can beat the best in the world and I just need something to kick it off."

It was in the Ryder Cup that Bjorn so memorably came back from four down after four to tie with Leonard in a crucial singles match and he once again proved more resilient than his American rival, not to mention David Duval, the other member of the trio, who finished level par after a bit of pulled round approaches.

Bjorn's 68 should have been better but he missed two four-foot putts. He expressed general satisfaction with his play, though, and he may yet figure among the contenders. After handing in his card, Bjorn headed straight for the practice ground to work on his driving. If he fails to make an impact here, it will not be for want of trying. But then, maybe that is the problem. He wants it too much.

Bjorn feels he has a point to prove for he was the only member of the victorious European Ryder Cup team at Valderrama not to be invited to play in the Masters earlier this year.

It was a snub he took to heart for, as a player from a country with little golfing tradition, he acts as an ambassador for Denmark.

He certainly looks in better shape than Duval on whom so much money has been wagered. Two birdies in the last four holes may have stopped many thousands ripping up the betting slips but Duval walked off the course a frustrated man. At least that is how he seemed behind his impenetrable shades.



Cup of woe: Montgomerie takes a drinks break on the 5th tee, before his round began to run into trouble

Montgomerie falls at the first

FOR Colin Montgomerie, that most complex of golfers, there is normal (ie good) form, major championship form and Open form, and each one is worse than his predecessor. Yesterday, he experienced all three, but the most enduring of them was the last. Only a quarter of this championship has been played and already Montgomerie is virtually out of contention.

Montgomerie has admitted that he usually saves his worst golf of the year for the third week in July. Indeed, he has uttered the words so often that one begins to wonder if a malevolent voice in his subconscious does not chant a mantra that lures him onto the siren rocks of Open Championship failure before he hits a ball.

That Montgomerie is one of the finest players in the world is beyond dispute. So what leads him, almost invariably, to falter in his home Open? He wishes he knew. Furthermore, he must wonder why, if he is destined to have one bad round in every Open, it always comes on the first day.

His record in the championship hovers on the far side of dreadful. He has missed the cut four times in the past six years and on two occasions that he has stayed the course, he has played well on the final three days. By which time, the damage has already been done. Last year, he opened with a 76, then played the last 54 holes in five under par. In 1994, his previous full Open, he started with a 72, then went 69, 65, 69 to tie for eighth. That

Mel Webb watches mood of Scot change as poor round rules him out of contention

remains his best performance in an Open. Yesterday, he had a 73, another chance scattered to the four winds. It could have been so different. He had the sort of start he would have dreamt of if he were the sort of individual to indulge in such frumpiness. He birdied the 3rd with a slippery downhill putt of 15 feet. Was this to be a good putting day? Montgomerie has said that when he puts well, he usually wins, and when he doesn't... well, he will still be good enough for a top-ten finish. If he thinks that he is going to make the top ten this week, he had better learn to dream pretty quickly.

He followed it up with a magnificent three-iron to six feet on the 6th and holed the putt for another birdie. Two under. Who could ask for anything more?

His demeanour in these early stages was a revelation, too. Montgomerie has been observed playing hundreds of rounds in the past few years, but never has he been seen in such extrovert mood. He smiled, he chatted to his partners, shared a small joke with the rules official, Mike Stewart, of the European Tour, and even broke off a couple of times to

wander over to chew the fat with Richard Boxall, his fellow professional, who was doing a commentating stint for BBC Television.

He even sailed, unperturbed, through a pace-of-play warning. He and his two partners, Ben Crenshaw and Andrew Magee, were put on the clock on the 6th and taken off it on the 10th fairway. At this point, nothing could disturb his equanimity, not even the noise of a passing helicopter.

A bogey at the 7th also failed to shake Montgomerie out of his tranquil stride, but he wobbled perceptibly when he dropped a shot at the short 12th, where a ham-fisted chip from greenside rough left him with an 18-foot putt for a par. Missed — level par.

His expression grew darker when he bogeyed the 13th after driving into a bunker, and by the time he dropped another shot at the 16th, during the execution of which he hectored a television cameraman for standing in his line, he was positively volcanic. "The British Open [sic] is not the place to learn where to be with your camera," he growled to Stewart. Monty the expansive had been replaced by Monty the grouchy.

His misery was far from being over as he finished with four straight fives, two of which were bogeys, to leave him a disillusioned and disappointed man. "All I've got left now is trying to make the cut," he said. When Montgomerie is in this sort of mood, he makes Pagliacci look like a Butlin's Redcoat.

Nerves get better of flagging Westwood

By JOHN HOPKINS GOLF CORRESPONDENT

WHEN Lee Westwood walked on to the 1st tee just before 9.25am yesterday, hundreds of spectators lined the right of the fairway and hundreds more gathered behind the tee. They gave him a big cheer and clapped lustily. Westwood, his from Worksop, and on the path between the 12th green and the 13th tee he walked past four schoolchildren from Nottingham holding a flag of St George, on which they had written: "Westwood for the jug".

As Westwood paced this way and that on the 1st tee, perhaps the thought occurred that almost every one of those spectators wanted him to win the Open. What a responsibility. The sheer scale of support for him was uplifting. Was it also a little intimidating?

Westwood is young, self-confident and playing remarkable golf. However, perhaps nerves and the weight of expectation have got the better of him at the start of the two big events that have been held in Europe in the past nine months. Two dropped strokes in his first four holes yesterday gave him a heavy load to carry and he only partly retrieved this poor start by scoring birdies at two of his last three holes for a 71.

Equally, Westwood was clearly nervous in the first match in the Ryder Cup last September, the foursomes in which he and Nick Faldo eventually lost to Fred Couples and Brad Faxon.

Is there any wonder? Westwood, remember, has just turned 25. It was his first Ryder Cup, this is only his fourth Open. Give him time. "I have come to see the boy wonder and I haven't seen much wonder," an American said on the 13th. At that point the Englishman did not look like the man who has won a quarter of the tournaments in which he has competed over the past nine months.

On the green of that hole, a portable telephone went off in the crowd. Mick Dolan, Westwood's caddie, asked for it to be turned off, as did Westwood. Later Westwood would say: "If you bring a telephone to the golf course you are too busy. You should be in the office."



Westwood: poor start

Up to then, his golf had been joyless, or at least his putting had. His putts stopped short, a sign of nerves, slipped past the right of the hole or ghosted away to the left. It was not until the 16th, when one of 12 feet fell in at the last gasp, that Westwood sank anything longer than a few feet.

The frustration was getting the better of him and, just when he least expected it, he holed one across the 17th green for his second birdie of the day in as many holes. This slightly made up for hitting his second shot into a bush on the 15th, a mistake for which he was lucky to drop only one stroke.

At one over par, Westwood is far from out of it. Perhaps now he has got the first round out of the way his talent will blossom in the way his play improved dramatically in the Ryder Cup. Westwood hit some magnificent irons in the glorious sunshine yesterday, notably on the 11th, the 16th and the 18th, and the more his round went on, the more settled he looked. Long may this trend continue. He has a lot of ground to make up.

BIRKDALE DIARY

GARY PLAYER hit his 10.28th stroke in the Open when he teed off at 3.05pm yesterday. Player, 62, is the oldest competitor and making his 43rd consecutive appearance. He has won the Open in three decades — the 50s, 60s and 70s — but his total winnings are £44,163.60. His biggest cheque from this illustrious event was £5,500 when he won at Royal Lytham in 1974 — £100 less than the player who will finish last of those who play four rounds this year.

Steve Jones, whose memories of a tournament victory are fresher in the mind than any of his 155 fellow competitors, was responsible for a 73 yesterday, despite finishing his first round with an eagle and a par. On Sunday evening, Jones won the Quad Cities Classic in Illinois. As even former US Open champions cannot be in two places at once, he was forced to catch a Monday flight. Most of his compatriots were into their practice rounds.

Greg Chalmers, of Australia, displayed admirable mental fortitude in repairing the damage of a wretched start to his first Open. Chalmers, a left-hander who occupied joint second place in the Peugeot Spanish Open and National Car Rental English Open this season, retained his composure, despite opening with a triple-bogey seven on the 449-yard 1st. He also bogeyed the 17th — which, on scoring average, was proving to be the easiest hole on the course — but four birdies from the 13th onwards contributed to a respectable 71.

Commercialism may be becoming more rife in golf, but some people are determined to maintain standards. Coca-Cola offered the owners of a white round house overlooking the course £80,000 to dab it in red logos. When the offer was politely refused, the drinks giant returned with a six-figure temptation, but that, too, has received a firm "no".

EARLY SCORES FROM ROYAL BIRKDALE

65: J Houston (US), T Woods (US)
67: N Price (Zim)
67: F Jacobson (Swe), B Faxon (US), D Love III (US), V Singh (Fij)
68: D Howell, S Amos (Tnn), B Tway (US), G Turner (NZ), J Farnwick (Swe), P Walton, T Bjorn (Den), R Russell, B Watts (US)

69: G Evans, S Tomasco, M Calcavecchia (US), P Baker, S Garcia (Sp)
70: S Stricker (US), *D De Vooght (Bel), K Fukubori (Japn), B Jurek (US), J P Hayes (US), G Dodd (Aus), K J Choi (Kor), B May (US), D Duval (US), S Miyazumi (Japan)

71: J Haeggen (Swe), S Clark (US), T Yanagishi (Japan), L Westwood (US), M Brooks (US), E Romero (Arg), O Malley (Aus), G Brand Jr, D Carter, C Franco (Par), I Garrido (Sp), A Lyle, Y Mizumaki (Japan)
72: S Dunlap (US), P Sjolund (Swe), K Hasekawa (Japan), B Maylar (US), B Lara, B Ediss (US), R Karlsson (Swe), S Allen (Aus), P McGinley, D Frost (SA), R Giles, A Casop, T Levett (Fij), B Davis, P Price, N Ozaki (Japan), M O'Meara (US), N Faldo

73: M A Jimenez (Sp), S Hoch (US), S Ballesteros (Sp), T Watson (US)

C Montgomerie, C Strang (US), T Dodds (Nam), M McNulty (Zim), D Clarke, T Johnston (Zim), P Harrington, S Jones (US), G Hutchinson, S Aker (NZ), M Clark, M Campbell (NZ), J Leonard (US), J Maggert (US)

74: J L Gussy (Fij), C Pavin (US), R Clayton, P-U Johansson (Swe), G Brown, R Drummond, S Young, G Spring, S Kendall (US), J Durant (US)

75: K Tomori (Japan), *M Kucher (US), S Elkington (Aus), A Magee (US), F Henge (Swe), S Lesney (Aus)

76: S Appleby (Aus), B Crenshaw (US), P Azinger (US), R Davis (Aus), P Mitchell

77: S Handerson, L Jones, C Surinson (Sp)

78: T Suzuki (Japan), F Howley



Faldo: round of 72

Great Britain and Ireland (unless stated)
0715: T Levett (Fij), H Clark, B Davis
0725: G Brand Jr, B May, R Davis (Aus)
0735: P Mitchell, M Campbell (NZ), P Walker (Can)
0745: J Leonard (US), T Bjorn (Den), D Duval (US)
0755: S Kendall (US), D Carter, C Franco (Par)
0805: J Maggert (US), P Price, N Ozaki (Japan)
0815: D Love III (US), I Gemdo (Sp), V Faldo (US)
0825: M O'Meara (US), N Faldo, S Miyazumi (Japan)
0835: J Durant (US), R Russell, S Lesney (Aus)
0845: B Watts (US), S Lyle, Y Mizumaki (Japan)
0855: L Jarzon (US), I Woonam, C Parsy (Aus)
0905: J Daly (US), B Langer (Ger), P Stewart (US)
0915: G Lyle (US), A Collier, F Marozzi (Fij)
0925: F Coussis (US), J M Ozzard (Sp), R Altery (Aus)
0945: L Richards (US), S Luffa (Sp), G Chalmers (Aus)
0955: B Hart (US), G Orr, R Howell
1005: T Levett (Fij), M James, E Elie (SA)
1015: P McInnes (US), C Rocca (It), F Nobilo (NZ)

TEE-OFF TIMES

1025: G Player (SA), G Day (US), P Senior (Aus)
1035: D Cooper, M Long (NZ), D Smyth (Ire)
1045: P Lewis, M Hallberg (Swe), S Stover (Can)
1055: R Brand, D Lee, M McGuire
1105: A McLardy (SA), A Oldcorn, P Hedzon (Swe)
1115: *S McCarthy, J Ramsey (Fij), M Lillon
1125: *J Ross, S Thirring (Den), B Davie
1135: D Shackley, S Armstrong, J Davie (US)
1145: J L Gussy (Fij), F Jacobson (Swe), G Evans
1155: M A Jimenez (Sp), S Dunlap (US), K Tomori (Japan)
1215: *M Kucher (US), S Tomasco, S Appleby (Aus)
1225: S Hoch (US), P Sjolund (Swe), S Elkington (Aus)
1235: S Stricker (US), S Ballesteros (Sp), T Watson (US)
1245: C Pavin (US), *D De Vooght (Bel), K Hutchinson (NZ)
1255: B Maylar (US), B Lara, D Howell
1305: M Calcavecchia (US), J Haeggen (Swe), K Fukubori (Japan)
1315: S Clark (US), J Houston, T Yanagishi (Japan)

1325: S Ediss (US), P Baker, S Amos (Tnn)
1335: B Jobs (US), R Karlsson (Swe), T Suzuki (Japan)
1345: A Meyer (US), C Montgomerie, B Crenshaw (US)
1355: B Tway (US), C Strang (US), G Turner (NZ)
1405: G Faxon (US), L Westwood, T Dodds (Nam)
1415: J P Hayes (US), R Clayton, M McQuay (Zim)
1425: T Woods (US), P-U Johansson (Swe), N Price (Zim)
1445: M Brooks (US), D Clarke, E Romero (Arg)
1455: P Azinger, *S Garcia (Sp), T Yanagishi (Zim)
1505: J Farnwick (US), P Harrington, S Allen (Aus)
1515: S Jones (US), J Parnewik (Swe), P McGinley (Aus)
1525: L Lyle (US), P McGinley, D Howland (Fij)
1535: G Brown, R Drummond, S Handerson
1545: G Hutchinson, S Young, G Spring
1555: G Dodd (Aus), R Giles, Nyoung Ju Choi (Kor)
1605: F Henge (Swe), L Jones
1615: F Henge (Swe), C Surinson (Sp), A Czup

WHO'LL WIN THE BALL COUNT?
IT'S AN OPEN SECRET.
No other golf event in the world is as rich in folklore as the Open. This most ancient and respected of championships is steeped in tradition - from the famous Claret Jug to the annual ritual of the ball count. Every year since 1930 a ball count has been held, and every year it has been won by Titleist. So which ball is being teed up by more players than all other balls combined this year? It's not exactly a secret at Royal Birkdale... it could only be the #1 ball in golf.
Titleist #1 ball in golf.

مكذوب من الأصل

Flushed
WIN A PERRA
ENTER FOR THE...
FANTASY FORMULA ONE

Woods woos galleries despite saving himself and spending a penny Flushed with joy on Tiger's trail

LYNNE TRUSS



At the Open

The culture shock after five weeks of football in France is considerable. It's like the room the cannon fire stops and you can hear the birds sing. Hello clouds, hello sky. On the sunny, breezy 18th fairway yesterday, following Tiger Woods, Nick Price and Per-Ulrik Johansson, I plucked a small blue flower from the knee-high grass and for a few seconds felt intensely poetic.

Ahead was a large gallery of polite, appreciative golf fans who would fall absolutely silent for Tiger's putt and would, under no circumstances, commence a Mexican wave or boo a bad shot. As I said to a colleague, these people never seem to sing 'You're great, and you know you are.' 'Well,' he agreed, 'only with Colin Montgomerie, anyway.'

If the conditions were blissful so was the sight of Woods playing so well. On previous first-hand sightings — at the Open last year, and at the Ryder Cup — he had been the epitome of the old saying about all going and no dinner. Yesterday he shot a cool 65, and although he still adopted the pensive expression of a sensitive child about to take a piano exam, he was playing what he later called "smart golf", and clearly enjoying it.

For a while he led the field by one stroke at six under par; bogeying the 18th, he dropped back to share the lead with John Huston. Those of us who had chosen to spend 4½ hours following him from 1st tee to



Woods played "smart golf" by eliminating risk, but the large crowds that followed him around Royal Birkdale were scarcely less entranced

18th green felt jolly smug about it. I can tell you. Price finished only one stroke behind. It was marvellous. It wasn't the same Tiger Woods, however. Not quite. Just as his crowds were less hysterical than before, so smart golf has reined him in. The yellers and shriekers have found someone else to yell and shriek at, and Woods isn't outdriving everybody just for the hell of it.

Anyone adopting the Tiger-viewing strategy of last year — waiting for his tee-shot at a spot calculated by seeing other people's tee-shot and adding 30 yards — would have been very disappointed. Only at the 411-yard 9th did Tiger wield the famous driver for maximum gasp and put the ball just short of the green. Otherwise, he laid up with unwavering accuracy, which made his performance less of a whizz-bang crowd-pleaser, but more

like really fine golf. It was an excellent round: as indeed was that of Price. Poor Per-Ulrik, finishing four over par, looked pretty cheesed, and you couldn't blame him. I have a theory that God punishes Swedish golfers who wear jean-style trousers (see Jesper Parnevik, *passim*), and this theory was well attested.

Per-Ulrik put his ball in a bunker and then in the rough — and it was only the 1st hole. The crowds said "Oh" and "Ah" for the rest of his round, as he repeatedly failed to extricate himself from the three-over grave he had dug for himself. They applauded in that smarmy, tut-what-a-life way that all losers must learn

intense quiet, willing the ball to the hole. As for Per-Ulrik, however, two or three times they started to move off from the green unaware that the luckless Swede had still to putt out. Or if they were aware of it, they didn't care.

The glory of the conditions ("benign" seemed to be the official description) helped everything along. Tiger had to pop off and remove a sweater at one point because it was warming up so much. The light, warm wind was regarded as a friend. "This won't last," we all told each other. "They're forecasting gales for tomorrow."

All the more reason for Tiger to get a good first round tucked under that skinny waistband and use the wind when he could. Afterwards, he said his 360-yard tee-shot at the 9th was just a matter of getting the ball airborne, as if it were a paper plane. He also

said: "I love this course; it's difficult but it's fair. Everything is right there in front of you."

So it was a marvellous start to the Open. One of the many contrasts with the World Cup is that the players are so much closer. In fact, I was just remarking on this intimacy phenomenon as Tiger teed off at the 10th, when he suddenly sprinted to the temporary toilets beside me, and muttering "gotta go when you gotta go", made his way into the Ladies (the Gents being occupied).

Lumme. What did we do now? It was what they call in the movies an interesting *Sitch-ew-ayshun*. Standing outside, trying not to listen for telltale noises, should one cough, talk loudly, hum? I can only say, it was the sort of etiquette conundrum that never, ever raises itself in the world of football.

'It was less of a whizz-bang crowd pleaser but more like really fine golf'

While his more traditionally accented partners knocked spots off him, Per-Ulrik's sartorial decisions began to look a bit silly. That cap worn back to front, for example, can look the ultra-cool Tarantino accessory of choice, but at the same time it can slip, uncomfortably, into the realms of the youthful Mickey Rooney. So

to hate. And then they made enthusiastic "Ooh" and "Hey!" noises for the other two players — in particular, for Tiger's magnificent 30-yard putt at the 13th, which appeared to describe a perfect semi-circle before dropping daintily into the old tin cup.

It wasn't fair, but that's life. People watched Tiger with

Few alarms as benefits dawn on early risers

By PHIL YATES

"GOOD morning, ladies and gentlemen, and welcome to this, the 127th Open Championship," Ivor Robson, the long-serving starter, announced at precisely 7.15am. A few seconds later, Jean-Louis Guepy, an understandably nervous Frenchman, teed off, and the great event began.

For many, the prospect of rising while the dawn chorus tunes up is decidedly unappealing. Fredrik Jacobson, who accompanied Guepy and Gary Evans on the early-morning shift, had no problem climbing out of bed at 4.50am. After all, his Open debut was only a couple of hours away.

Jacobson has no window in his hotel room, so the Swede had no means of knowing that the gales of the past five days had relaxed and that he would be favoured with near-ideal conditions. The penny dropped when he stepped onto the becalmed practice range just after six o'clock.

"I knew then that I'd got a good tee time," Jacobson, who took full advantage to record a three-under-par round of 67 which briefly left him as the leader, said. He would gladly exchange a sleepless night for an identical score today.

Jacobson and Evans — who has experience of a pre-breakfast introduction to Birkdale, having got the Championship's 120th staging under way in 1991 — appreciated other benefits of being ground-breakers: no spike marks, no hold-ups and, the obvious ordeal of the first tee, a relatively sparse gallery. "I had a bacon buttie with brown sauce and was raring to go," Evans, who at 11.30am birdied the 18th for a 69, said. He went to a more substantial lunch with every reason to be quietly satisfied.

Not that the threesome played without distractions. A couple of boisterous gentlemen on a garden lawn

behind the 5th tee had to be informed of the need for silence, while another momentary interruption occurred when a policeman blew his nose rather fiercely. The absence of a sizeable audience was of particular use to Jacobson on the 9th. After bogeying the 8th to fall two over par, he decided that answering the call of nature was imperative. A convenient bush was located and he went from strength to strength. "I couldn't see any toilets, but I had to go."



Jacobson on the 1st tee

he said. "My body was so tense over certain putts in the early stages, I didn't hole anything."

Jacobson birdied three of the next four holes and, walking to his ball in a greenside bunker at the 13th, spied his name on the leaderboard. He remained one under until the 17th, when a cross-green eagle putt found the target. Jacobson, unable to play for seven weeks earlier this year after injuring his thumb on a skiing holiday, was delighted.

Jacobson looked forward to a good night's rest, but there was none in store — certainly of the emotional kind — for Evans, as the birth of his second child was expected last night. Given his penchant for early-morning golf, Dawn might not be a bad name should he be presented with a daughter.

EXCLUSIVE COMPETITION THE TIMES

WIN A CLASSIC FERRARI 328 GTB

ENTER FOR THE AUSTRIAN GRAND PRIX TODAY

The results of the British Grand Prix appear below with Michael Schumacher leading the drivers on 119 points and Ferrari heading the constructors with 215 points. J Kilmartin of Maidenhead, Berkshire, wins a trip for two to next year's British Grand Prix. His team, Francers I, scored 1,350 points, including 600 bonus points, at Silverstone.

How to Enter: Pick six drivers and six constructors, three from each of the four groups below. To qualify for the Austrian Grand Prix UK, readers should call 0891 40 50 01 (Roi +44 990 100 311) before Thursday July 23 using a Touch-tone



telephone and tap in their 12 selections in turn. The order in which you register your first three drivers will be your predictions for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd finishing places for the grands prix where bonus points apply. Cheedline Check your score after British race by calling 0891 884 648 (+44 990 100 348 ex UK) using your PIN. Faxback Service Call our faxback service on 0991 111 444 (UK only, calls cost £1/min).

Transfers Change up to four selections before the Austrian race by calling 0891 555 994 (+44 990 100 394 ex UK) before noon on Thursday July 7.

RESULTS OF THE BRITISH GRAND PRIX

DRIVERS: Qualifying points (scored by qualifying for the start of each grand prix within the first 20 positions on the grid): Pole M Hakkinen 30 points; 2nd M Schumacher 25; 3rd J Villeneuve 24; 4th D Coulthard 23; 5th E Irvine 22; 6th H-H Frenzen 21; 7th D Hill 20; 8th J Alesi 19; 9th J Herbert 18; 10th G Fisichella 17; 11th A Wurz 16; 12th P Diniz 15; 13th M Salo 14; 14th J Trulli 13; 15th J Verstappen 12; 16th R Barrichello 11; 17th T Takagi 10; 18th E Tuero 9; 19th S Nakano 8; 20th R Rosset 7. **Finishing points** (scored for E Tuero 9; 19th S Nakano 8; 20th R Rosset 7). **Fastest lap** (one point): J Herbert 27; M Salo 27; H-H Frenzen 15; D Hill 13. **Improvement from starting grid** (one point): J Trulli 37; R Rosset 29; E Tuero 29; J Verstappen 38; D Coulthard 37; J Trulli 37; R Rosset 29; E Tuero 29; J Herbert 27; M Salo 27; H-H Frenzen 15; D Hill 13. **Improvement from starting grid** (one point): J Trulli 37; R Rosset 29; E Tuero 29; J Verstappen 38; D Coulthard 37; J Trulli 37; R Rosset 29; E Tuero 29; J Herbert 27; M Salo 27; H-H Frenzen 15; D Hill 13. **Most starting after qualifying** (10 points deducted): none. **Speeding in the pit lane** (5 points deducted): none.

CONSTRUCTORS: Finishing points (scored for the first car only in the top 20 positions at the end of every grand prix): Ferrari 30 points; McLaren 25; Benetton 23; Jordan 21; Williams 19; Minardi 19; Tyrrell 18. **Penalty points** incurred resulting in a car being made to start from back of grid or pit lane (10 points deducted): none. **Elimination of a car** (10 points deducted): Jordan -10 points; Prost -10. **Elimination of a race** (10 points deducted): Stewart -20 points; Prost -20; Arrows during the race -10; Williams -10; Minardi -10; Tyrrell -10; McLaren -10; -20; Sauter -10; Jordan -10; Williams -10; Minardi -10; Tyrrell -10; McLaren -10; J Verstappen -10; D Coulthard -10; J Trulli -10; R Rosset -10; E Tuero -10; J Herbert -10; M Salo -10; H-H Frenzen -10; D Hill -10. **Not starting after qualifying** (10 points deducted): none. **Speeding in the pit lane** (5 points deducted): none.

BONUS POINTS apply to six grands prix during the 1998 Formula One championship. The fourth is the Hungarian GP. **Correctly predicting winning driver:** 100 points; second place: 200 points; third place: 300 points

MAKE THREE SELECTIONS FROM EACH OF THE FOUR GROUPS BELOW

The first column of figures after the names below, shows the Fantasy Formula One race scores for the British GP. The second column shows the total points in the competition so far

DRIVERS			
GROUP A		GROUP B	
01 D Hill	23 612	12 A Wurz	126 977
02 M Schumacher	158 1199	13 R Schumacher	122 551
03 D Coulthard	50 954	14 J Trulli	40 490
04 G Fisichella	120 901	15 J Herbert	35 690
05 J Villeneuve	110 1023	16 M Salo	31 495
06 O Panis	20 674	17 P Diniz	50 473
07 H-H Frenzen	26 773	18 J Verstappen	40 574
08 E Irvine	128 1112	19 T Takagi	115 588
09 M Hakkinen	140 1150	20 R Rosset	26 384
10 J Alesi	62 836	21 S Nakano	125 726
11 R Barrichello	40 613	22 E Tuero	28 435

CONSTRUCTORS			
GROUP C		GROUP D	
23 Williams	10 135	29 Sauber	-20 42
24 Ferrari	30 215	30 Arrows	-20 -67
25 Benetton	23 134	31 Stewart	-20 -5
26 McLaren	15 174	32 Tyrrell	8 -23
27 Jordan	1 5	33 Minardi	9 -7
28 Prost	-30 -68		

*Jos Verstappen replaces Jan Magnussen in the Stewart-Ford team from the French Grand Prix. Rule 2 applies.

FANTASY FORMULA ONE 24-HOUR ENTRY LINE: 0891 40 50 01

0891 calls cost 50p per minute (standard tariffs apply to +44 990 calls).

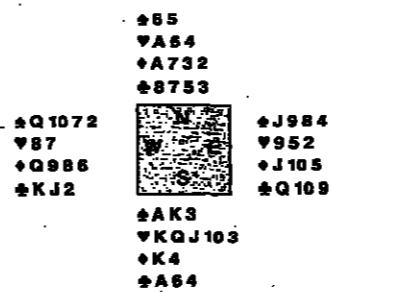
CHANGING TIMES

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Begin Bridge with The Times: Lesson 14 - MiniBridge 9

Last week I wrote about how to choose whether to play in a suit contract or No-Trumps. Obviously, it is possible to play a suit contract just like No-Trumps, i.e. draw trumps and cash or establish winners, but the presence of a trump suit adds another dimension, that of ruffing (or trumping). Here is an example:



South is the dealer and the points are announced: South 20, West 8, North 8 and East 4. South becomes declarer. North puts down the dummy. With a combined 28 points, what should be the target?

Make up the hand and play in No-Trumps. There are ten tricks (your normal target with 28 points) on top (two spades, five hearts, two diamonds and one club). But for those of you who like to exceed targets, consider playing with Hearts as trumps. There are eight trumps of good quality, so it is unlikely that Hearts will play any worse than No-Trumps.

Before reading further, play out the hand with Hearts as trumps with the opening lead of the two of spades. See if you can make an extra trick.

This time West did not have a clear choice of opening lead, no convenient sequence of honours. I would choose the two of spades. I generally prefer to lead away from a queen rather than a king — declarer too often has the ace and the queen and makes an extra trick. I choose the two because it is normal to lead the lowest from a three- or four-card suit (more about that later).

You, South, win the spade lead with the ace when East plays the jack, and lay down the king and queen of hearts. In a trump contract you should always draw as many trumps as you can afford just in case your opponents make extra tricks by ruffing instead of you. Here you have only one spade to ruff so you need to leave only one trump in the dummy. Because your trumps in hand are so strong, you can afford to ruff with dummy's ace, just in case East also has a doubleton spade and could overruff dummy's six. After the king and queen of hearts, cash the king of spades and ruff a spade with dummy's ace. Now play a diamond to your king and draw the remaining trumps. When you have cashed your other top winners you will find that you have eleven winners, one more than you had in No-Trumps.

□ If you would like a booklet explaining MiniBridge in greater detail, please write to the EBU, Broadfields, Biester Road, Aylesbury, Bucks HP19 3BC; tel: 01296 394414, marking the envelope 'Times MiniBridge'.

WINNING MOVE

By Philip Howard

- PRAIRIE OYSTER**
a. Llama droppings
b. A pick-me-up
c. An expensive wristwatch
- GADROON**
a. A scoundrel
b. Ornamental wire
c. A Venetian coin
- BROCATELLE**
a. A woven fabric
b. A Congress dance
c. A pin-board game

Answers on page 50

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Kramnik's success

Today I conclude my coverage of the powerful tournament at Dortmund, where Michael Adams, of Great Britain, tied for first place. I look at two games played by the third member of the winning triumvirate, Vladimir Kramnik, the Russian grandmaster. Kramnik is one of those unfortunate individuals who consistently displays great strength, except at critical psychological moments. This may explain his clear defeat by Alexei Shirov in the qualifying match to play Kasparov for his world title, despite the fact that Kramnik was the favourite before the eliminator began.

White: Vladimir Kramnik
Black: Artur Yusupov

Dortmund 1998

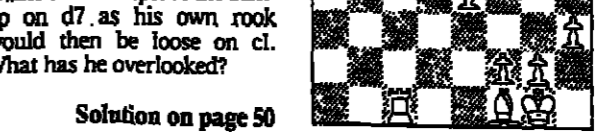
Queen's Gambit Declined

1 Nf3	d5	2 Nc3	d5
2 d4	Nf6	3 Nc3	d5
3 d4	Nf6	4 dxd5	Nxd5
4 Nc3	Bb7	5 e4	Nc6
5 Bg5	h6	6 Bxc3	Bg7
6 Bf4	0-0	7 Bc4	c5
7 e3	b6	8 Ne2	Nc6
8 Bc3	Bb7	9 Be3	cx4
9 0-0	Nb7	10 cx4	Qe5+
10 Qe2	c5	11 Bc2	Qd8
11 Bg3	Ne4	12 d5	Ne5
12 cx5	exd5	13 Bc3	0-0
13 Rd1	Ng3	14 Bc3	Qd6
14 hxg3	ae6	15 Rf1	Ng4
15 dxc5	bxc5	16 Bd4	Qe5+
16 Bb1	Nb6	17 Qd2	Qxd2+
17 a4	Bf6	18 h3	e5
18 Qe2	g6	19 hx4	ex4
19 a5	Nc4	20 hxg4	g5
20 Nxd5	Nxd2	21 g3	Bg4
21 Nd6+	Qx6	22 ae2	Ba2
22 Rd2	Bd3	23 Nx2	Rf6
23 g4	Ra8	24 Rd1	Rc3
24 h4	0-0	25 Rf3	Rc6
25 e4	Rf8	26 d6	b5
26 Qe2	Qc8	27 Rf3	cx3
27 Qxd2	Qc8	28 R6	Kf8
28 Qxd2	Qc8	29 B7+	Kg6
29 e6	Nc3	30 B7+	Black resigns

□ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WINNING MOVE

White to play. This position is from the game Farago — Jurkovic, Italy, 1998. Black is relying on the fact that White cannot capture the bishop on d7, as his own rook would then be loose on c1. What has he overlooked?



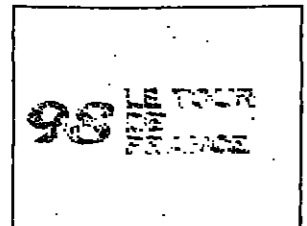
Solution on page 50

CYCLING: SCANDAL OF DRUG SEIZURE CONTINUES TO HAUNT LEADING TEAM

Festina manager ordered out

FROM JEREMY WHITTLE
IN CHATEAURoux

IN A packed press conference in the stage-five start village of Cholet yesterday morning, Jean-Marie Leblanc, the Tour de France director, announced that Bruno Roussel, the Festina team manager, had been effectively thrown out of the race by cycling's governing body, the Union Cycliste Internationale, after the recent doping scandal surrounding the leading



French team. The Festina team management, headed by Roussel, who, together with Eric Ryckaert, the team doctor, was detained overnight by French police officers in Cholet, has been implicated by Willy Voet, the team masseur, after the seizure of steroids and EPO, the growth hormone, which were found by customs officers in a Festina team car last week.

"The executive committee of the UCI has decided to provisionally ban Bruno Roussel from holding a director's sports licence," Leblanc said. "The committee decided that the evidence is sufficient for a provisional suspension of his licence."

"The UCI understood the need to take urgent measures to restore public confidence. Priority has to be given to the general interest." The Festina riders competing in the Tour are, though, unlikely to face any further action from the UCI or the Tour organisation itself. "The riders have committed no infraction against the UCI's anti-doping rules," Leblanc said.

As the Tour continued, Ryckaert denied any knowledge of banned substances and spoke of his shock at revelations published in the French and Belgian press,



The Festina riders Laurent Brochard, left, Richard Virenque, centre, and Laurent Defaux face the press yesterday

even though he was subject to investigation by Belgian police last winter.

"Nine months ago the police came to my offices in Ghent to look at my computer database, and not to look for the products that have been mentioned by others," Ryckaert said. "That all came about following the accusations of a Belgian pharmacist who stated that I had been buying quantities of EPO. If that had ever been the case, I hardly think I'd be a free man now."

Ryckaert, who has been closely linked to Voet in the pages of Belgian newspapers, reiterated his denial of any wrongdoing or involvement in the administration of banned substances. "I'm against doping," he said. "That much, I think, is clear. But there are questions

you must ask yourself on the definition of doping. For myself, in the role of a doctor, I want to know where medical treatments end and where doping begins."

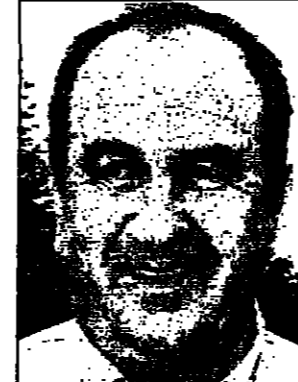
Michel Gros, Festina's assistant team manager, has now taken charge of the team, while Miguel Moreno, their third coach, is flying to France from Toledo in Spain to act as his assistant.

"I believe in the innocence and good conduct of Bruno Roussel," Miguel Rodriguez, the Festina watch company's proprietor, said yesterday. "Our riders have nothing to be reproached for. There's no question of us pulling out of the Tour de France and now we will let French justice do its work."

Despite the UCI's decision to suspend Roussel, the affair

shows little sign of abating, after further comments came from Dr Jean-Paul Escande, of the Cochin Hospital in Paris.

"The doping products seized in this affair are well known to



Moreno: flying in

specialists," he said. "Festina are probably not the only team to use these products."

EPO, which is used to enrich the blood and is the most controversial of the products seized in the Festina affair, is considered to be among the most dangerous of banned substances presently available.

The use of blood doping products, such as EPO, has been widely linked to a series of cardiac problems thought to have afflicted several professional cyclists throughout the past eight seasons.

"To avoid complications, athletes are obliged to exercise regularly to boost their circulation," Dr Escande said. "One hotelier told me that one night, at three in the morning, he found a whole team exercising in their rooms."

Cipollini cuts a late dash

MARIO CIPOLLINI overcame his run of bad luck and survived a three-man crash in the finishing straight to claim his first win in the Tour de France this year at the climax of the fifth stage in Chateauroux.

In a wild and bad-tempered sprint to the line, the Italian sprinter was boxed in by Erik Zabel, of Germany, but Cipollini, who has already suffered a number of falls, produced his familiar finishing burst to power past the Deutsche Telekom rider inside the closing 200 metres.

"It was very nervous and tense today," Cipollini said, "but that's what the Tour de

France is all about. Even third or fourth is a good result in this race and lots of riders are trying to get up to the front at the time. That's why there are so many crashes."

On a wet and windy day, Stuart O'Grady, of Australia, the overnight race leader, was one of the fallers on a right-hand bend as the race approached the second intermediate sprint at Loudun after 80 kilometres.

The GAN rider, who suffered cuts and grazes to his side, was able to continue after a bike change and treatment to his left hip and knee.



Cipollini celebrates after his first stage win of the Tour

Lloyds Bank Interest Rates for Business Customers

LLOYDS BANK BASE RATE		MORTGAGES	
Effective from 4 June 1998	7.50% per annum	Band	Eqv. Annual Rate %
A		1.08	12.96
B		0.91	10.92
C		0.87	10.44

OVERDRAFTS		LOANS	
Band	% Per Month	% Per Month	Eqv. Annual Rate %
A (and Standard)	1.05	1.08	12.96
B	0.97	0.91	10.92
C	0.88	1.18	14.16
D	0.84	1.08	12.96
Unauthorised	2.00		

INTEREST EARNING ACCOUNTS			
Premier Interest Account	Gross Rate %	Gross CAR %	
£250,000+	6.05	6.22	
£100,000+	5.85	6.01	
£25,000+	5.50	5.75	
£10,000+	5.20	5.33	

Business Reserve Account			
Band	Gross Rate %	Gross CAR %	
£10,000+	5.05	5.15	
Below £10,000	4.70	4.78	

Business Call Account			
Band	Gross Rate %	Gross CAR %	
£250,000+	4.65	4.75	
£100,000+	4.45	4.54	
£50,000+	4.10	4.18	
£10,000+	3.80	3.87	
Below £10,000	3.55	3.61	

Interest rates may vary from time to time. This notice lists current rates. Gross Rate - does not take into account deduction of tax at the lower rate. Net Rate - the rate of interest after the deduction of tax at the lower rate. This is shown for illustrative purposes only. Certain customers may be able to reclaim the tax from the Inland Revenue. Gross CAR - compounded annual rate which falls monthly, quarterly, or half-yearly interest remains invested. Business Call Account and Premier Interest Account interest rates are subject to change. Business Reserve Account interest rates are subject to change.

These rates of interest apply with effect from 17 July 1998

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CMF11 (17 July 1998)

TELEVISION CHOICE

Land of magic and mystery

The First Night of the Proms
BBC2, 7.30pm

Music, magic and mystery, some of the themes of the 1998 Prom season, are powerfully exemplified in the opening night performance of Berlioz's *The Damnation of Faust*, transmitted live from the Albert Hall. It is one of ten of the 73 concerts that will be televised, culminating in the last night jollities in September. Inspired by the Goethe version of the Faust story, Berlioz's vibrant score is an appropriate choice for the Proms: being intended for the concert hall rather than the opera house. Bryn Terfel sings Mephistopheles, with David Rendall in the title role and Ann Murray as Faust's lover, Marguerite. James Naughtie presides over the evening, which includes an interval film exploring treatments of Hellfire and damnation in literature and painting.



James Naughtie presents the Proms from the Albert Hall (7.30pm)

Lonely Planet
Channel 4, 8.00pm

New Mexico, Arizona and Nevada, according to Justice Shapiro, cover more than one-fifth of the United States. Shapiro manages to cover much of all three in the space of a half-hour programme. It follows that we are not allowed to linger very long in one place. Sometimes this may be for the good. When Shapiro dismisses Santa Fe as one of the most touristic cities she has ever visited, we cannot blame her for moving on. But she may have been turned against the place by staying in a hotel where guests were expected to do the chores. The nearest Shapiro gets to becoming a conventional tourist is by taking a helicopter ride over the Grand Canyon. Otherwise it is the usual *Lonely Planet* recipe of seeking out the offbeat and eccentric and 'travelling modestly, in this case by a gas-guzzling old banger that soon breaks down.

time on their hands to indulge in the sort of trivial pursuits which make the show what it is. Thus Joey, the actor presumably resting between jobs, is making an enormous meal of trying to sell his entertainment career to her, while Phoebe is convinced that a cat which gets into her guitar case embodies the spirit of her dead mother. And there is the usual excursion into romance as Monica dates a man who once two-timed Rachel, and wishes that she hadn't bothered.

South Park
Channel 4, 11.40pm

Those who found the first episode of this quirky animated show puzzling should have less difficulty tonight. Things start to fall into place the second time around and despite the efforts of the animators to make them look like identical twins, the four eight-year-olds at the heart of the show are starting to assume separate identities. A clear plot helps and there can be none more straightforward than Eric Cartman (he's the fat one) winning a school essay competition and looking forward to receiving his prize from a visiting celebrity. Except that the weird schoolmaster with the glove puppet decides to right a past wrong by setting out to assassinate the town's star. It is the cue for this amusingly tasteless show to squeeze a joke out of what happened in Dallas on that fateful day in November 1963. Peter Waymark

Friends
Channel 4, 9.00pm

It is a shock to be reminded in stray bits of dialogue which surface tonight, that the New York Six have jobs, for we never catch them doing any work on the screen. Hands up those who have seen Monica in her chef's uniform. Phoebe as a masseuse or Ross practising paleontology. They all seem to be permanently at home, or in the cafe, with plenty of

RADIO CHOICE

First Night of the Proms
Radio 3, 7.30pm

Tonight's opener and the *Last Night of the Proms* are the traditional bookends on a shelf that has been growing ever thicker since the first year, with poor old Henry Wood—well, poor dead Henry Wood would be more accurate—removed from the title. Thus the *Henry Wood Promenade Concerts* have given way to *BBC Proms 98*. Wood's huge achievement remains honoured in the music and Proms director Nicholas Kenyon, who continues in the role even though he is no longer Controller of Radio 3, has survived catcalls about "populism" brought on by the inclusion of work by composers who are not actually deceased. *The Damnation of Faust* by Berlioz, opens the season.

Like They've Never Been Gone
Radio 4, 11.30am

Roy Hudd and June Whitfield are the living proof that age is no barrier to comedic popularity, proving they take the right work at the right time. Whitfield, with *Absolutely Fabulous* for television, and Hudd, with the enduring *News Huddlines* for radio, have never been backward looking and this new series, starting both of them, is another with thoroughly modern credentials. They play Tommy Franklin and Sheila Farr (the couple all Britain knows), winners of the Eurovision Song Contest in 1962. It is a resurrection to residency on the proceeds, resurrection beckons, thanks to a cola company that wants to use their winning song for a television commercial. Not just the song, but Tommy and Sheila, too. Peter Barnard

RADIO 1

6.30am Kevin Greening and Zoe Ball 8.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Jaye Middlemiss 12.30pm Newswatch 12.45 Jaye Middlemiss 2.00 Mark Radcliffe 4.00 Dave Pearce 5.45 News 6.00 Radio 1 Breakfast Selection 6.30 Dave Pearce's Live Dance Party 1.00 Westwood Radio 1 Rap Show 2.00am Fabio and Grooverider 4.00 Emma B

WORLD SERVICE

7.00am News 7.15 Insight 7.30 A Delicate Line 8.00 News 8.15 On the Shelf 8.30 Music Review 9.00 News; (648 only) News in German 9.10 Pause for Thought 9.15 Westway 9.30 John Peel 10.00 News 10.05 World Business Report 10.15 The Learning World 10.30 Speaking of English 10.45 Sports Roundup 11.00 Newsdesk 11.30 Assignment 12.00 Newsdesk 12.30pm Focus on Faith 1.00 News; (648 only) News in German 1.05 World Business Report 1.15 Britain Today 1.30 News 2.00 Newsdesk 3.00 News 3.05 Outlook 3.30 Multitrack: Alternative 4.00 News 4.05 Football Extra 4.15 Songs of Home 4.30 Science in Action; (648 only) News in German 5.00 Europe Today 5.30 World Business Report 5.45 Britain Today 6.00 News 6.15 Insight 6.30 Science on a Plate: News in German (648 only) 6.45 Sports Roundup 7.00 Newsdesk 7.30 Focus on Faith 8.00 News 8.05 Outlook 8.25 Pause for Thought 8.30 Multitrack: Alternative 9.00 Newsdesk 10.00 News 10.05 World Business Report 10.15 Britain Today 10.30 People and Politics 11.00 News 11.30 Insight 11.45 Sports Roundup 12.00 News 12.05am Outlook 12.30 Multitrack: Alternative 1.00 Newsdesk 1.30 From the Westdesk 1.45 Britain Today 2.00 Newsdesk 2.30 Songs of Home 2.45 Short Story 3.00 Newsdesk 3.30 People and Politics 4.00 News 4.05 World Business Report 4.15 Sports Roundup 4.30 Insight 4.45 On the Shelf

RADIO 2

6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 8.30 Ken Bruce 12.00 Kenny Rogers 12.05 John Durr 7.00 Disney's Women. Julie Andrews discusses her role in *Mary Poppins* 7.30 Friday Night is Music Night 8.15 Catchment 8.30 Listen to the Band 10.00 David Jacobs 10.30 Sheridan Morley 12.05am Jeff Owen 4.00 Jackie O'K

RADIO 5 LIVE

6.00am The Breakfast Programme 9.00 Brian Hayes. Topical phone-in, plus Euronews 12.00 The Midday News. Headlines from around the world and Monoghost, with Jane Garvey 1.00pm The Big Breakfast 1.30pm The 17th Open Cup Championship from Royal Bricks 8.00 Friday Sport. The night's action, including Rugby League: Halifax Bussac v Sheffield Eagles 10.00 Late Night Live 1.00am Up All Night

VIRGIN RADIO

7.00am Jonathan Ross 10.00 Russ Williams 1.00pm Nick Abbot 4.00 Robin Banks 7.00 Johnny Boy's Wheels of Steel 11.00 Janey Lee Grace 2.00am Howard Pearce

TALK RADIO

6.30am The New Talk Radio Breakfast 9.00 Scott Chisholm 12.00 Lorraine Kelly 2.00pm Tommy Boyd 3.00 Sport 5.00 Denny Kelly and Denny Baker 7.00 World Cup Phone-in 8.00 Sport 10.00 Mike Allen 2.00am Mike Dickinson

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Petroc Trelewy, Handel (Organ Concerto in F, Op 4 No 4)
9.00 Masterworks, with Peter Hobbyday, Chabrier (Overture: Gwendoline); W.F. Bach (Duet in G, BWV 1027); Mozart (Capriccio);
10.30 Artist of the Week: Thomas Hampson
11.00 Sounds Stories: Instrumental Revolutionaries. Richard Baker profiles the Chicago-born clarinetist Reed Kroslow.
12.00 Composer of the Week: Rameau
1.00pm The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert. Live from the Octagon, Boston, the last of this week's 12.00 Concerts. The orchestra's Pascha and conductor John Carewe are joined by the narrators Linda Ormiston and Thomas Allen in a performance of one of the settings of Edith Sitwell's *Spade* which launched William Walton's career, introduced by Rodney Stafford
2.00 The BBC Archive: Albert Quatlet. Recordings of one of this country's oldest string quartets.
3.00 The BBC Archive: The Great Day of Haydn, plus Dvořák's String Quartet in G. With Rodney Stafford, double bass
4.00 Music Restroom: Luke Skywalker introduces a studio session by the Canadian bass viol duo Les Vols Humaines (f)
4.45 Music Machine, with Verity Sharp
5.00 In Tune. Sean Rafferty talks to the ball dancer Wayne Sleep as he celebrates his 50th birthday
7.30 BBC Proms 98: The First Night of the Proms. Live from the Albert Hall, London. David Rendall, tenor; Bryn Terfel, baritone; Ann Murray, mezzo; Donald Maxwell, bassoon; BBC Singers; New London Children's Choir; BBC Symphony Chorus and Orchestra under Andrew Davis. *The Damnation of Faust*, Parts 1 and 2. See Choice 8.35 Hell, Fire and Damnation. From his lofty perspective in the marble halls of heaven, protagonist James Naughtie surveys the landscape of hell in *The Damnation of Faust*, Parts 3 and 4. Simultaneous broadcast with BBC2
Subsequent programmes may run late
8.00am News; *The Chieftains*; Festival 1998 A concert given last Friday at the Chieftains Festival, John Costello, piano, Paul Silverthorn and Gareth Knox, vocals; London Sinfonietta under George Benjamin; Carter (Linnit past UK performance); Benjamin (Viola, Violin, first UK performance); Donatoni (Petrus)
11.30 Bright Star Live (f)
12.00 Composites of the Week: Byrd and Tallis (f) 1.00am Through the Night, with Donald Mackled

RADIO 4

4.30 The Message. Alex Brodie and guests look at how current media trends affect us
5.00 PM 5.54 (LW) Shipping Forecast 5.57 Weather 6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 FTF. The Australian comedian Mark Little chairs the new-based improvisation game, with John Moloney and Ed Byrne
7.00 News; The Archers
7.15 Front Row. John Wilson presents the nightly arts programme
7.45 Under One Roof: School's Out, by Wendy Lee. Based on the original story by Michele Hanson. With Paula Donohoe, Edna Dore and Lucia Bradshaw-White (S) (f)
8.00 News; Any Questions? Jonathan Dimbleby is joined in studio, Northumberland, by David Burckett, Secretary of State for Education and Employment, and Bea Campbell, broadcaster and journalist
8.45 Letter from America
9.00 News; The Friday Play: Bones, by Bonnie Green. In February 1997, the bones of 60 slaves were unearthed on the North Devon coast. A young black reporter is sent to cover the story. With Tony Armstrong-Jones, Ailsa Parsons and Amanda Holden
10.00 The World Tonight
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Setting the World on Fire, by Stephen Wilton. Read by Simon Russell Beale (10/10)
11.00 Late Night on 4: Late Tackle. Martin Bashir meets golfers and golf lovers for a special hour-long programme from the Open at Royal Birkdale
11.30 (LW) Today in Parliament
12.00 News; The Late Book: *Every Secret Thing*. Gillian Slovo reads the first part of her recollections of a South African upbringing of secrecy and trauma (S) (f)
12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

DETAILS

FIFTH STAGE: (Cholet to Chateauroux, 228.5km): 1, M Cipollini (f, Saeco) 5hr 18min 45sec; 2, E Zabel (Ger, Telekom); 3, G Menges (Ger, Fuchs); 4, A Fontana (f, Vini Vini); 5, P Gaudin (f, G. Gaudin); 6, M McEvoy (Aus, Rabobank); 7, G Hinze (Ger, US Postal Service); 8, Gald (Ger, Post); 9, F Monesson (f, GAN); 10, A Bongiorni (f, Asco); 11, Emmanuel Magnien (f, GAN); 12, Sivanovic (Ser, Borost); 13, Sivanovic (Ser, Borost); 14, Sivanovic (Ser, Borost); 15, Sivanovic (Ser, Borost); 16, F Cobo (f, Saeco); 17, Sivanovic (Ser, Borost); 18, Sivanovic (Ser, Borost); 19, Sivanovic (Ser, Borost); 20, Sivanovic (Ser, Borost); 21, Sivanovic (Ser, Borost); 22, Sivanovic (Ser, Borost); 23, Sivanovic (Ser, Borost); 24, Sivanovic (Ser, Borost); 25, Sivanovic (Ser, Borost); 26, Sivanovic (Ser, Borost); 27, Sivanovic (Ser, Borost); 28, Sivanovic (Ser, Borost); 29, Sivanovic (Ser, Borost); 30, Sivanovic (Ser, Borost); 31, Sivanovic (Ser, Borost); 32, Sivanovic (Ser, Borost); 33, Sivanovic (Ser, Borost); 34, Sivanovic (Ser, Borost); 35, Sivanovic (Ser, Borost); 36, Sivanovic (Ser, Borost); 37, Sivanovic (Ser, Borost); 38, Sivanovic (Ser, Borost); 39, Sivanovic (Ser, Borost); 40, Sivanovic (Ser, Borost); 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More to sleep than you would ever dream

Sleep fascinates me, probably because, like most contemporary working adults, I never seem to get enough of it. So I was looking forward to *The Dreaming Brain*, the first of Channel 4's new *Secrets of Sleep* series.

And there was some fascinating material. I had not realised, for instance, that the brain actually paralyses your body during REM (rapid eye-movement) sleep, probably a protective device designed to prevent early mammals from getting up and hurting themselves off cliffs, while dreaming that they were pterodactyls.

Nor had I realised that the bizarre and devastating condition known as narcolepsy occurs when the slightest excitement triggers this paralysis, even when sufferers are awake, causing them to fall to the floor like puppets whose strings have been cut. The sight of two narcoleptic dogs collapsing in a heap as soon as they started to

insist each other's undercarriages was truly pitiful, although the condition could prove a reliable method of birth-control.

If we are deprived of REM sleep, the dreams will occur spontaneously while we are awake. (That happens all the time to some of us anyway.) Dreaming probably has the psychological function of helping us to face anxieties, confront fears and sort out possible solutions. During dreams our brains switch off the late-evolutionary rational zones and just concentrate on primitive emotions, shaping dramas out of our gut feelings.

Our brains may become more active than they are when awake, and become sensitive to changes in our bodies so that our dreams may respond to medical conditions as yet undiagnosed. We can dream about things before our conscious mind has any idea that they have happened.


But in other respects this was a

frustrating documentary. People sleeping don't generally make for very exciting television. We had a lot of talking medical heads, some scratchy black-and-white archive material and plenty of fuzzy screen sequences to depict dreams.

Perhaps to compensate, an air of eerie foreboding was carefully nurtured, not least by the quietly sonorous voiceover. The programme constantly teased us with the feeling that it was about to turn into an episode of *The X Files*. Were we about to learn that during REM sleep we have the ability to communicate with aliens? (I shouldn't joke about that. There are probably 10 rival groups in Utah alone who believe precisely that, and will swear blind that they have already done it.)

But in this episode at least, most of the revelations seemed distinctly familiar. Didn't I know already that REM sleep is where you do

INTERVIEW



Paul Hoggart

the serious dreaming? That it is the bit where only your eyes move? Hasn't humankind always known that dreaming helps us to cope with emotional disturbance, and that sleep "knits up the ravelled sleeve of care"? Or did I just dream it? Spoopy!

There were ravelled sleeves coming out of the characters' ears in the final episode of Imogen's Face (ITV). In fact Andrea New-

man is a heavyweight travelling champion. Her stories are tangles of emotional spaghetti, formed from the pasta of raw human emotion.

Actually the tangles all seem to boil down to one main cause, which is that nearly all the characters are terrible liars. They are terrible both in the sense that they lie to each other when it would make much more sense to tell the truth and in the sense that they always seem to get caught.

The plot therefore consists of a rapid sequence of emotional time bombs exploding, as X finds out that Y is pregnant by someone else (Z) who isn't even W's baby after all, although she did have it off with V while P was off pretending to look after Q, but actually having a dirty weekend with X. No sooner is one sleeve of care painfully knitted up again, than a new time bomb goes off and ravel is all over again.

Like *Secrets of Sleep*, this programme promised an air of the weird and supernatural. The first episode, in fact, featured a dream sequence in which plainish Amanda (Lia Williams) saw not her own reflection, but that of her sister Imogen (Samantha Janus), who is, as they say in the red-tops, a bit of a "stunner". The title sequence culminated in a shot of Ms Janus flashing her huge eyes at us in a decidedly supernatural way. And that eerie little piano motif kept popping up.

All of this proved irrelevant, however, since the series was yet another convoluted domestic drama. It did have a theme, however, which gelled more strongly as the story progressed. This was to do with the emotional problems caused when couples split and end up raising children, not all of whom are their own offspring, but since the em-

phasis was all on the impulsive passions, it got a bit lost.

Anybody who finds all of this too tiresome to bother with should get their spouse or partner to wake them up during the latter phases of REM sleep. You should find your own vivid little mini-drama, stuffed with surreal images and personally tailored to your psychological needs, still fresh in your mind.

Finally, I was glad to welcome the return of *Third Rock From The Sun* to BBC2, for a series new to terrestrial television. I would probably watch it for the deliciously silly title graphics alone, in which stars and planets bounce around like bumpy bagatelle balls to the accompaniment of twanging, 1950s rock music. Roseanne's guest appearance in an implausible role-reversal as a goody-goody 1950s housewife was a perfect complement to the old-fashioned cornball humour. Dream on.

- BBC1**
- 6.00am Business Breakfast (82340)
 - 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (68814)
 - 9.00 All Over the Shop (T) (8568291)
 - 9.25 Kilroy (T) (8143430)
 - 10.00 Meet the Challenge Debbie Flint presents the DIY game show (5618415)
 - 10.25 Style Challenge Classics Compilation from the last three series (6763104)
 - 10.55 Short Changes DIY tips (1487949)
 - 11.00 News (T) regional news and weather (5910562)
 - 11.05 Pote to Pote Michael Palin travels through Tanzania to Uji (T) (8869788)
 - 11.55 News (T) (6068494)
 - 12.00 Every Second Counts (T) (49388)
 - 12.30pm Golf: The Open Further action from the second day at Royal Birkdale. Continues on BBC2 at 1.00pm (65814)
 - 1.00 News (T) and weather (62901)
 - 1.30 Regional News (T) (15804369)
 - 1.40 Neighbours (T) (49231123)
 - 2.05 Perry Mason: The Case of the Scandalous Scoundrel Raymond Burr as the crusading attorney investigates the murder of a sleazy magazine publisher (T) (9948630)
 - 3.35 Noddy (785756) 3.45 Playdays (6397524) 4.05 Popeye (2633340) 4.10 Bailey Kipper's POV (9107562) 4.35 The Mask (605164)
 - 5.00 Newsround Euro-Starlet A 13-year-old girl goes on patrol in the English Channel with the Royal Navy (T) (3903982)
 - 5.10 Record Breakers (T) (T) (6504123)
 - 5.35 Neighbours (T) (T) (252727)
 - 6.00 News (T) and weather (475)
 - 6.30 Regional News (T) (727)
 - 7.00 Celebrity Ready, Steady, Cook Coronation Street stars Angela Griffin and Charlie Lawson challenge Jeremy Hurrell and Phil Vickery to prepare a meal from mystery ingredients (T) (4369)
 - 7.30 Top of the Pops Jamie Theakston introduces Billie; Another Level: Eagle Eye Cherry; and Garbage (T) (611)
 - 8.00 Uncle Buck (1989) John Candy stars as a good-natured slob called on to look after his trouble-making nephew and niece while their parents are away. Also starring Macaulay Culkin. Written and directed by John Hughes. Continued after the News (T) (7231)
 - 9.00 News (T) and weather (8814)
 - 9.30 FILM: Uncle Buck Conclusion of tonight's film (T) (85678)
 - 10.00 Golf: The Open Steve Rider reviews day two at Royal Birkdale (284746)
 - 10.45 The Outlaw Josey Wales (1976) Western set in the aftermath of the American Civil War, directed by and starring Clint Eastwood as a peaceful farmer who turns vigilante to avenge the murder of his family by Union soldiers. Also with Sondra Locke (T) (18969307)
 - 12.55am The Asphyx (1972) with Robert Stephens, Robert Powell and Jane Lapotaire Supernatural thriller following the experiments of a 19th-century scientist. Directed by Peter Newbrook (T) (1934079)
 - 2.10 Weather (9223844)
 - 2.15 BBC News (9223844)

- BBC2**
- 6.10am The Learning Zone: Age and Identity (8385291)
 - 7.00 Teletubbies (T) (1723272) 7.25 Dink, the Little Dinosaur (1742307) 7.50 Cartoon Critics (T) (4479727) 8.15 Willy Fog (T) (2335652) 8.35 Spot (8503543) 8.45 The Record (2000930)
 - 9.10 Harewell (T) (3263982) 9.50 Cartoon (8204165)
 - 10.00 Teletubbies (48833)
 - 10.30 Golf: The Open Steve Rider introduces live coverage of the second starts in the second round from the tournament at Royal Birkdale. Coverage continues on BBC1 at 12.30pm (54098)
 - 12.30pm Working Lunch Financial and business reports from the City (63458)
 - 1.00 Golf: The Open Steve Rider introduces further coverage from the links at Royal Birkdale as the second 18 holes draw to a close leading up to tonight's halfway cut. With commentary by Peter Alliss, Alex Hay and Mike Hughes (6115098)
 - 7.30 The First Night of the Proms Coverage from the Albert Hall of Berlin's The Damnation of Faust, a dramatic and colourful interpretation of the legendary conflict between good and evil. The performers include Richard Margison as Faust, Bryn Terfel as Mephistopheles and Ann Murray as Margherite. With the BBC Singers, New London Children's Choir and BBC Symphony Orchestra under Andrew Davis. In the interval, James Naughtie considers how traditional notions of Hell have influenced other musicians, poets and painters (T) (83014765)

- HTV**
- 6.00am GMTV (1273611)
 - 9.25 Extreme Dinosaurs (T) (8572494)
 - 9.50 Judge Judy (T) (T) (4800611)
 - 10.20 Regional News (778524)
 - 10.30 The Broken Cord (1992) True-life drama starring Jimmy Smits about the struggle to raise an adopted Native American child with total alcohol syndrome. Directed by Ken Olin (95062123)
 - 12.20pm Regional News (4048659)
 - 12.30 News (T) and weather (50592)
 - 1.00 Surprise Chefs (64369) 1.30 Twigg's People (95253) 2.00 The Jerry Springer Show (2708253)
 - 2.45 WALEs: What's My Line? (739949)
 - 2.45 Garden Calendar (739949)
 - 3.15 News (T) (1447291)
 - 3.20 Regional News and weather (1444104)
 - 3.25 Tots TV (T) (1434727) 3.35 Big Bog (7831185) 3.50 Animal Stories (6433235) 3.55 EBU Dramas: Hungry (T) (6311104) 4.15 Sabrina the Teenage Witch (T) (9191901) 4.40 Get Wet (T) (485624)
 - 5.10 A Country Practice (5588017)
 - 5.40 News (T) and weather (168949)
 - 6.00 Catchphrase (561388)
 - 6.25 WALEs: Wales Tonight (742982)
 - 6.25 HTV Weather (195494)
 - 6.30 The West Tonight (123)
 - 7.00 Take Your Pick (T) (2765)

- CENTRAL**
- As HTV West except:
- 1.00pm Special Babies (64369)
 - 1.30 The Jerry Springer Show (4098933)
 - 2.45-3.15 Coping with Families (739949)
 - 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (5558017)
 - 6.00 Now and Then (561388)
 - 6.25-7.00 Central News (742982)
 - 10.40 FILM: Bliss (4714455)
 - 12.40am Beyond Reality (838215)
 - 12.30 Robocop (3398166)
 - 3.10 World Football (1866082)
 - 3.35 Vanessa (6702272)
 - 4.15 Central Jobfinder '98 (9519215)
 - 5.20 Asian Eye (8433292)
- WEST COUNTRY**
- As HTV West except:
- 12.15pm-12.30 News (2751814)
 - 1.00 On Foot (64369)
 - 1.30 The Jerry Springer Show (4098933)
 - 2.45-3.15 Westcountry Update (739949)
 - 5.10-5.40 Catchphrase (5588017)
 - 6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (68901)
 - 10.30 Westcountry News (812388)
 - 10.45-11.15 Get Real (182843)
 - 11.45 Renegade (856307)

- CHANNEL 4**
- 6.00am Sesame Street (15678)
 - 7.00 The Big Breakfast (T) (52524)
 - 9.00 With a Song in My Heart (1952, b/w) Emotional biopic based on the life of the singer Jane Froman (Susan Hayward). Directed by Walter Lang (32970307)
 - 11.10 The Three Stooges (b/w) (9305562)
 - 11.30 Here's One I Made Earlier: Aubergine and cheese terrine and tomato sauce; roast lamb with rashon couscous and pear clafoutis (T) (2017) 12.00 Sesame Street (32098) 12.30pm Light Lunch. With chef Ross Burden (T) (22475) 1.30 The Living Sea (T) (80123)
 - 2.00 Helicopters of the Navy (1957) Second World War adventure with Ronald Reagan. Nathan Juran director (T) (65622)
 - 3.30 Watercolour Challenge (T) (901) 4.00 Fifteen-to-One: The Big Winners (T) (856) 4.30 Countdown (T) (3045982) 4.55 Ricki Lake: Lark and Drive... So What? (5522185) 5.30 Pet Rescuers (T) (272)
 - 6.00 Tour de France The 205km from La Châtre to Brive la Gaillarde: fairly flat riding until the last stages which features an undulating drop of nearly 300m (165)
 - 6.30 The Cosby Show (T) (765)
 - 7.00 Channel 4 News (766974)
 - 7.55 The Political Slot (539369)

- CHANNEL 5**
- CHANNEL 5 NOW SATELLITE**
- Channel 5 is now broadcasting on transponder No 63 on the Astra Satellite. Viewers with a Videocrypt decoder will be able to receive the channel free of charge. Frequencies for transponder No 63 are: pictures: 10.92075 GHz; sound: 7.02 and 7.02 MHz.
- 6.00am News and sport (3519475)
 - 7.00 WorldWideWorld (T) (1609562) 7.30 Milkshake! (9691216) 7.30 Wind in the Willows (429458) 8.00 The Great Escape (3716458) 8.30 Dappleford Farm (3715727) 9.00 Secret Lives (T) (3739307) 9.30 The Oprah Winfrey Show (T) (6014017) 10.20 Sunset Beach (T) (4982091) 11.10 Liza (T) (6300185)
 - 12.00 News at Noon (T) (3719543) 12.30pm Family Affairs (T) (T) (303658) 1.00 The Bold and the Beautiful (T) (1808893) 1.30 Sons and Daughters (2353569) 2.00 100 Per Cent God (5301340) 2.30 Open House with Gloria Hunniford. With today's guest Dale Winlon (6251253)
 - 3.30 Coins in the Fountain (TVM, 1990) Lora Anderson, Stephanie Kramer and Sharra Starr as three women searching for love in Rome. Directed by Tony Wharmby (1668746)
 - 5.10 The Oprah Winfrey Show: Hanson America's sibling pop too (5115234)
 - 6.00 100 Per Cent Challenge (1732624)
 - 6.30 Family Affairs (T) (1756104)
 - 7.00 5 News (5312458)
 - 7.30 Wildlife SOS The fate of a brain-damaged fox hangs in the balance and a hedgehog is admitted with severe injuries (T) (175298)
 - 8.00 The Car Show Mariella Foster falls in love with Vauxhall's new Astra; while Tristram Payne heads west (532104)
 - 8.30 Sick As A Parrot Sports quiz (5300611)
 - 9.00 Halifax vs Rebecca Gibney stars as Australia's glamorous answer to Fitz in this Antipodean version of Cracker. An old friend and fellow psychiatrist enters into an affair with a patient (T) (2380630)
 - 11.00 C-16 (6731071)
 - 11.55 Stripper (1985) Docu-drama following the real lives of five women who have chosen to strip for a living. Directed by Jerome Gray (9414123)
 - 1.35am A Cry for Help (TVM, 1975) A cynical radio talk show host reacts against time to save the life of a suicidal caller. With Robert Culp. Directed by Daryl Duke (7048445)
 - 2.50 Hurt Partners (1992) A music star is willing to do anything to get a record deal. Directed by Robert Bergman and Myra Fried (7368708)
 - 4.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H (1135418)
 - 5.30 100 Per Cent Challenge (T) (3741228)

VIDEO PLUS+ and VIDEO PLUS+ codes

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Subsequent programmes are subject to delay and alteration

- 10.20 Animated 2 Mario Cavalli's Bolero, which uses computer-generated images, and Klaasje Schrijvers' award-winning film *Chroma d'oro*, featuring hand-painted techniques (T) (703811)
- 10.30 Newsnight Gordon Brewer presents a comprehensive round-up of the day's headlines (T) (703836)

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- SKY BOX OFFICE**
- See Sky TV for details of Sky TV services and programmes.
- SKY SPORTS 1**
- 7.00am Sports Centre (8595494) 7.15 Wrestling (512494) 8.15 Racing News (8595494) 8.30 Sky Sports News (8595494) 8.45 Sky Sports News (8595494) 9.00 Sky Sports News (8595494) 9.15 Sky Sports News (8595494) 9.30 Sky Sports News (8595494) 9.45 Sky Sports News (8595494) 10.00 Sky Sports News (8595494) 10.15 Sky Sports News (8595494) 10.30 Sky Sports News (8595494) 10.45 Sky Sports News (8595494) 11.00 Sky Sports News (8595494) 11.15 Sky Sports News (8595494) 11.30 Sky Sports News (8595494) 11.45 Sky Sports News (8595494) 12.00 Sky Sports News (8595494) 12.15 Sky Sports News (8595494) 12.30 Sky Sports News (8595494) 12.45 Sky Sports News (8595494) 1.00 Sky Sports News (8595494) 1.15 Sky Sports News (8595494) 1.30 Sky Sports News (8595494) 1.45 Sky Sports News (8595494) 2.00 Sky Sports News (8595494) 2.15 Sky Sports News (8595494) 2.30 Sky Sports News (8595494) 2.45 Sky Sports News (8595494) 3.00 Sky Sports News (8595494) 3.15 Sky Sports News (8595494) 3.30 Sky Sports News (8595494) 3.45 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CRICKET 46, 47

Brown gives Surrey the leading edge

SPORT

FRIDAY JULY 17 1998

CYCLING 50 Pressure grows on Festina over drugs allegations



Woods and Huston lead succession of sub-par rounds on first day of Open Championship

Birkdale defences easily breached

By JOHN HOPKINS GOLF CORRESPONDENT

THERE was always the likelihood, even on a course as difficult and one in such outstanding condition as Royal Birkdale, that if the par-70 links were left without anything resembling a decent wind with which to help to defend themselves, then player after player in the 127th Open Championship would heap indignity upon them. This is precisely what happened in the first round yesterday. It was demonstrated once again that competitors pursuing victory in the oldest major championship in the game are no respecters of persons or tradition.

First John Huston and then Tiger Woods brought the course to its knees with 65s, Huston with subtlety, Woods with some bludgeoning hitting. Huston, who used to wear special inserts in his golf shoes until stopped from doing so by the authorities, led the Masters after the first round in 1997, the year that Woods went on to his emphatic victory.

He and Woods started soon after breakfast and all morning there was the thought that perhaps the wind would get up a little after lunch and make the course more testing in the afternoon. But there was no change, and in the benevolent afternoon that followed the benevolent morning, Fred Couples eagled the 15th on his way to a 66, the same score as Loren Roberts and Nick Price. Vijay Singh and Davie Love III joined Faxon on 67.

Faxon recently discovered that his putter was bent in three places. Having had it straightened out, he had his best putting round of the year, one containing only 23 strokes.

It is time to amend what used to be known among the players as the "Watson par" to the "Faxon par" because Faxon is now outperforming the five-times Open champion



Montgomery scowls after slipping to a disappointing 73

in this department. "My putting is what I live and die for," Faxon said. "At the 6th hole I hit a guy on the butt with my three-iron and the ball shot off 40 yards. I still got my par."

By the end of a long, hot day there were at least 25 men under par. A fact that will concern supporters of the European tour is that Fredrick Jacobson, a Swede, and Robert Allenby, an Australian, are the only ones of the leading ten players to earn a living competing regularly on this continent.

A 65, five under par, is a total that would have been impossible to have achieved on Monday, when the wind blew so strongly and rain squalls thundered into the turf. Ten strokes more would have been a good score. After the conditions they had experienced in practice, and had been forecast for later in the week, the golfers yesterday must have felt like robbers who spend months planning a raid to the minute detail only to find that when they reach the bank the door to the safe has been left open. "It wasn't

demonstrated that competing in his first Open posed no fears. David Howell, in his second Open, continued the good form he has been showing recently with a 68.

There was little indication of what was to come when Huston began with nine consecutive pars to be out in 34, having saved his four by holing a putt of 25 feet on the 1st. That was nothing to write home about on such a day, but the way he played the second nine certainly was because it contained four birdies and an eagle. Some of the accuracy of his iron play was reminiscent of Johnny Miller at his peak. On four holes he hit his second shots to within 12 feet or less.

Severiano Ballesteros wears a copper bracelet around his wrist to ward off rheumatism. Huston, who suffers from tendinitis in his right wrist and bursitis in his left shoulder, carries around a duffle bag in which he keeps a £180 magnetic cover to slip over mattresses on which he has to sleep. It is supposed to increase the blood flow. "I think the working-out has helped and so has the magnet," he said. Earlier this year, Huston set a US tour record of 28 under par in a tournament in Hawaii.

It was a pity that a course otherwise in such excellent condition could not have greens that approached the speed of true seaside putting surfaces. Both the United States Golf Association and the Royal and Ancient seem intent upon making their championships distinctive, the USGA by appearing to want to make the driver an endangered species. The R & A seems to want the hard, fiery greens of old to be replaced by heavily watered ones that accept the ball willingly.

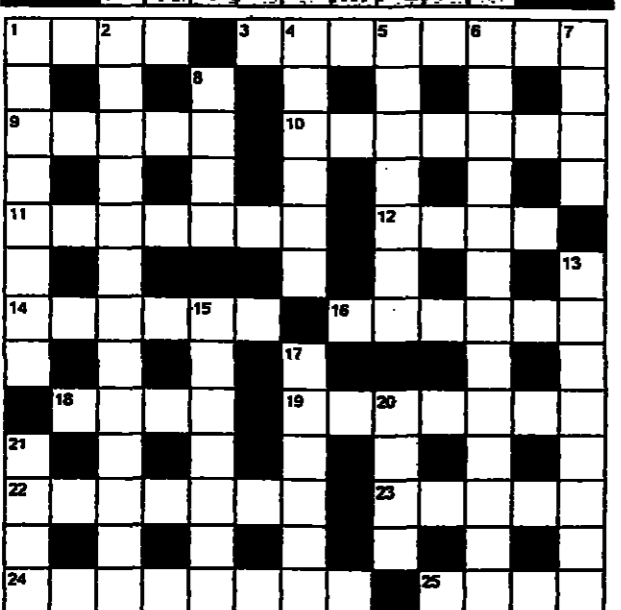
Birkdale's greens, satisfactorily relaid and deftly contoured as they have been, are not at true Open speed. What a shame. That might be one more defence that the course could be given to repel the advances of the skilful players of today.

Holder struggles, page 48 Scores, page 48 Lynne Truss, page 49 Early risers, page 49



Woods, one of many golfers who took advantage of benign conditions, lines up a putt during his round of 65

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1460

ACROSS

- 1 Part of head; a scary film (4)
3 Austrian emperor dynasty (8)
9 Movable joint (5)
10 Brought out to show off (7)
11 Rustic (7)
12 Period; designation (4)
14 Beautifully clear (6)
16 Beethoven's Ninth nickname (6)
18 Hit attempt party (slang) (4)
19 Wonderful lamp man (7)
22 Eternal (7)
23 Freewheel (5)
24 Power (8)
25 Restraining strap (4)

DOWN

- 1 Symbol of England (4,4)
2 Squadron Leader's boss (4,9)
4 Feature; appearance (6)
5 Abrasion; acceptable, when up to it (7)
6 University student (13)
7 Theatre gallery (4)
8 A mammal; fasten securely (4)
13 Microscopic sea organisms (9)
15 Prince of Wales motto (3,4)
17 Contrivance (6)
20 Curved opening (4)
21 Cat (in boots) (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1459

- ACROSS: 1 Copernicus 8 Builder 9 Large 10 Dome
11 Gaspacho 13 Adroit 15 Gounod 17 God's Acre
18 Lama 21 Event 22 Ascevoid 23 Saccharine
DOWN: 2 Oidium 3 Eddy 4 Normal 5 Colophon
6 Saracen 7 Second hand 8 Bedraggled 12 Didactic
14 Redress 16 Breach 19 Acorn 20 Gear

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